

400
MORE Snappy
Stories...

...that—
—PREACHERS—
—TELL—

PAUL E. HOLDCRAFT

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Charles Sumner

Charles H. Johnson 100

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Paul E. Holdcraft

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FOREWORD

"A GOOD THING for a minister to have up his sleeve is an over-sized funny bone." An aged, retired minister gave the above advice to me many years ago. It was good advice.

Unfortunate and handicapped indeed is that minister who has no sense of humor or who takes himself too seriously. If the gospel we preach does not make us good-humored, jovial, and happy, how can we expect it to have that effect upon others? Carlyle wrote, "The man who cannot laugh is not only fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils; but his whole life is already a treason and a stratagem." At least there is something awry with the minister who cannot laugh and make others laugh.

Someone who presumes to know has said, "It takes sixty-four muscles of the face to frown, but only thirteen to smile." If true, this would seem to indicate that the Creator expects us to do at least five times as much smiling as frowning. What oil is to machinery, laughter is to the mind and body.

The pulpit is, of course, no place for levity. Preaching is serious business. On the other hand, in the routine of a pastor's life he finds himself in many places other than the pulpit—at socials, banquets, service clubs, receptions, conferences, conventions, to say nothing of his visits in homes needing a bit of sunshine and cheer. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." (Prov. 17:22.)

It has been said, "A funny story is the shortest distance between two points of view." Many a tense situation has been eased by the good-natured telling of an appropriate funny story. Yes, the humorous story definitely has its place in the preacher's repertoire.

This compilation of stories, like Topsy, "just grew." No claim is made to originality, of course, and it is utterly impossible to name

many of the authors. The stories were brought back from conferences, conventions, banquets, and "bull sessions" at summer camps. Some were clipped from church periodicals, and some were taken from the shelves of memory, dusted off, revamped, and put back into service.

In selecting the stories for this booklet I have sought to use only those having some useful illustrative value or bearing on some phase of the minister's life and program, while avoiding such witticisms as may caricature any race or creed. By the same token I have sought to eliminate anything that may be considered an irreverent use of the name of the Deity or that would be a sacrilegious usage of the Bible and the great Bible doctrines.

PAUL E. HOLDCRAFT

1. THE MINISTER

"IF THE minister's hair is white, he is too old. If he is young, he lacks experience. If he has ten children, he has too many; if he has none, he should have, to set a good example. If his wife sings in the choir, she is presuming; if she doesn't, she isn't in sympathy with his work. If he reads his sermons, he is a bore; if he preaches extemporaneously, he is shallow. If he spends much time in his study, he isn't a good mixer; if he gets about a great deal, he ought to be home making better preparation for Sunday. If he calls on a poor family, he is playing to the grandstand; if he calls on the rich, he is aristocratic. It's a great life—if you don't weaken."—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

2. REFERRED TO A SPECIALIST

SUFFERING from insomnia, a man consulted his family physician, a general practitioner. After a thorough examination the doctor advised: "I am afraid I can't help you as your trouble is quite acute. I suggest that you see my pastor, Dr. ———. He has had excellent results in getting people to sleep."

3. TOO LATE

AS THE frenzied, perspiring orator finally took his seat, the presiding officer arose and suggested: "Will somebody kindly open a few windows and let this hot air out?"

4. DESCRIPTION DIDN'T FIT

FUNERAL services were in progress for the town loafer and ne'er-do-well. His hard-working widow and ten children were lined up on the front seat as the kindly minister proceeded with the eulogy, in which he pointed out the many noble traits and qualities of the deceased, drawing largely upon his imagination. After awhile the widow nudged her oldest son and said, "Go up there and look in that casket and see if that really is Pap."

5. NATURALLY

IN THE act of baptizing twin babies a minister asked the mother: "Is this a boy?"

"Yes," replied the mother.

Then he asked of the other twin: "And is this child of the contrary sex?"

"Yes," admitted the mother, "she's a girl."

6. WORTH WHAT THEY PAID

AT THE Sunday dinner members of the family took turns criticizing the service they had just attended. Comments were passed on the pastor's poor sermon, the soprano's cracked voice, the awkward ushering, the out-of-tune organ, the poor sexton service, and so on. Finally little Mary piped up: "Well, if you ask me, it was a pretty good show for a nickel."

7. SEEMED TO LIKE IT

A BOSTON paper declared: "Some families regularly serve 'roast pastor' at their Sunday dinners."

8. MEETING COMPETITION

At a community hobby show antique dealers were exhibiting their prized possessions. One displayed an ancient axe which he claimed to have been the one used by George Washington in cutting down the cherry tree. A second dealer produced an axe he claimed had been used by Abraham Lincoln in splitting rails. Not to be outdone, a third collector produced an "axe" far more ancient, "The Acts of the Apostles."

9. THE SCREEN MINISTER

EVERY person appearing on the screen in the guise of a "minister" (generic term) should wear the collar of a Roman Catholic priest, the hat of an English vicar, the frock coat of a Presbyterian, and the spats (preferably white) of no clerical person on God's earth. He should carry an umbrella, indoors and out, and when performing a marriage service (which is his only function in the movies besides getting laughed at), he should read it out of the Bible, in which, of course, it never was printed.—*New York Tribune*

10. THE PEPTOMIST

AN UNFORTUNATE motorist was bogged down in axle-deep mud. Soon a big limousine stopped, and a pleasant voice said: "Don't worry; you'll get it out all right." It was the voice of an *optimist*, who hurried on. The next car was operated by a *pessimist*, who said to the man in the ditch: "Brother, you'll never get it out; you may as well give up." Finally a jalopy stopped. The driver saw what was needed, tied a stout rope to the bogged-down car, and soon had it on terra firma. The driver of the jalopy was a *peptomist*.

11. THE LAST WORD

"WHAT were your father's last words?" inquired the minister of a member of a bereaved family.

"Father didn't have any last words," was the reply; "mother was with him to the end."

12. NO USE TO STOP

"WHAT did the pastor preach about?" a mother asked her son when he came home from church.

The youngster was ready with this answer: "He said a man went from Jerusalem to Jericho and was beaten up by thieves and thrown into a ditch. By and by two preachers came along, and when they saw the man had *already* been robbed, they passed by on the other side."

13. AT LEAST HE WAS COURTEOUS

THE JUDGE was addressing a man whose wife had him in court on charges of extreme mental cruelty. "Your wife," said the judge, "says you have not spoken a word to her in ten years. What have you to say for yourself?"

The poor fellow's answer was: "Well, your honor, I didn't want to interrupt her."

14. NO WAY TO ACT

A MOHAMMEDAN mother was busy with her housework when she overheard her children arguing and quarreling in the back yard.

Going to the door, she called to the children: "Why can't you act like good little Mohammedans and stop acting like Christians?"

15. THE LORD'S LOSS

LITTLE Johnny was given two dimes one Saturday evening. "One of the dimes," said his father, "is for Sunday school tomorrow, and the other is for an ice-cream cone for yourself."

As Johnny ran to the confectionery to get his ice-cream cone, he stumbled and one of the dimes rolled into the sewer drain. "Oh," said Johnny, "there goes the Lord's dime."

16. DECEMBER AND MAY

"WHY is it that so many young girls marry men who are much older than themselves?"

"Well, it may be because when a man is rich enough to be a girl's husband, he is old enough to be her father."—*Watchman-Examiner*

17. PENANCE

PAT: "Your riverence, I came to confess that I stole a basket of grapes."

Pastor: "Well, you must do penance; swallow at least a dozen of them whole, one at a time."

Pat: "Ha! ha! ha! Here comes Mike; he stole coconuts."

18. COLORFUL MAN

WHEN a man is mad, they say he is purple with rage and sees red. When he is a coward, they call him yellow. When he goes straight and lives clean, he is white. When he is loyal, he is true blue. When he is inexperienced, he is green. When he is lacking in pep, he is colorless.

19. PROMISED SOMETHING

LITTLE Bobby was picking up his toys which he had scattered about the room. The visiting pastor commended him for it. He pleasantly inquired: "Did your mother promise you something for picking them up?"

Bobby: "No, sir, but she promised me something if I didn't."

20. MAYBE RIGHT, AT THAT

"DOCTOR," said a patient, "it is mighty nice of you to come all this distance to see me."

"Oh, that's all right," said the doctor. "You see, I have another patient in this section so I thought I would just kill two birds with one stone."

21. GOOD MEMORY

TEACHER: "For what was George Washington noted?"

Pupil: "For his memory."

Teacher: "Why do you think his memory was unusual?"

Pupil: "They erected a monument to it."

22. HE COULD TAKE IT

THE HOSTESS was doing her best to entertain the visiting pastor, and even played a number of selections on the piano and sang for him. "Do you enjoy good music?" asked the hostess.

"Yes, I do," said the pastor, "but just go right ahead."

23. FRAGILE

A YOUNG woman was mailing the large family Bible to her brother in a distant city. The postal clerk examined the heavy parcel carefully and asked the usual question whether it contained anything breakable.

"Nothing but the Ten Commandments," was the quick reply.

24. JUST LIKE HER TO DO IT

THE WOMAN autoist posed for a snapshot in front of the fallen pillars of an ancient temple in Greece.

"Don't get the car in the picture," she warned, "or my husband will think I ran into the place."

25. A COMPROMISE

TWO FISHERMEN were telling their experiences. One told of fishing in a certain brook and catching a speckled trout weighing ten pounds. The other fisherman told of yanking out his line and discovering a lighted lantern on the hook.

"Now wait a minute," said the first fisherman; "you may have hooked an old lantern, all right, but it wasn't lighted."

"Maybe I did stretch the truth a bit there," said the second fisherman. "I'll tell you what I'll do; you take eight pounds off your trout and I'll blow out my lantern."

26. LAUGHS FROM A JOKE

IT HAS been said that a Frenchman gets two laughs from a joke, one when he hears it and another when he understands it; an Englishman gets one laugh from a joke, when he hears it; an American doesn't laugh at a joke, he has heard it before.

27. FOR A SHORT WHILE

MRS. NEWLYRICH hired a genealogist to work up an impressive family tree for her. His research revealed that one ancestor had been electrocuted for murder, so he wrote of that person: "Occupied the chair of applied electricity at one of our better known public institutions."

28. SIN OF OMISSION

LAYMAN: "Pastor, would you blame me for something I didn't do?"

Pastor: "Of course not. Why do you ask?"

Layman: "I didn't get out of bed in time for church last Sunday."

29. YOUR TURN TO SPEAK

RECRUIT: "There are lots of new turns for a fellow to take when he is in the army. At night he turns in, and just about the time he turns over, someone turns up and shouts, 'Turn out!'"

30. COULDN'T TAKE IT

AT AN intercollegiate meeting representatives of various colleges and universities were scheduled to tell of the qualities and virtues of their respective schools. The speaker from Yale said he would let the four letters Y-A-L-E stand for "Youth, Ambition, Liberty, Enlightenment." He spent fifteen minutes on each of the words. As he was about to be seated, a delegate tried to slip out of the room but was stopped at the door. "Why are you leaving before the meeting is over?" he was asked.

"Well," replied the weary delegate, "I notice on the program that the next speaker is from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology."

31. TAKING ADVICE

THE MANAGING editor wheeled his chair around and pushed a button for the person wanted. The person wanted entered. "Here,"

said the editor, "are a number of suggestions from outsiders as to the best way to run a newspaper. See that they are all carried out." The assistant gathered the suggestions together, put them in a large wastebasket, and *carried them out.*—*Watchman-Examiner*

32. WOULD BE REMINDED

A MISSIONARY was about to return to the jungle after a furlough. His friends gave a banquet and farewell party in his honor. Being called upon for a speech, the missionary said, in part: "I thank you very sincerely for this wonderful occasion. I am deeply moved by it. And I want you to know that when I am far away, surrounded by ugly, grinning savages, I shall always think of you."—*Exchange*

33. SOMETHING IN HIS FAVOR

DOCTOR: "I don't like the looks of your husband."

Wife: "I don't either, but he is good to the children."—*Link*

34. MOST PREACHERS TOO

A FARMER was asked what time he went to work in the morning. "I don't have to go to work," said the farmer. "I just get out of bed and in a minute I'm surrounded with work."—*Voiceways*

35. EGGSACTLY

"THAT'S THE GUY I'm laying for," muttered the hen as the farmer crossed the barnyard.—*Watchword*

36. IT WORKED

HAVE YOU heard about the man who took a vacation to forget everything? The first night at the hotel he opened his grip and discovered he had forgotten everything.—*Watchword*

37. ON WRONG SIDE

LITTLE JOHNNY was getting acquainted with his aunt, whom he had never seen before. "Yes, Johnny," she said, "I'm your aunt on your father's side."

"Well, I'll tell you right now," said precocious Johnny, "you're on the wrong side."

38. VERY APPARENT

"WHAT pretty hair you have, Mary," said the visitor. "You must have got it from your mother."

"No," replied little Mary, "I must have got it from Daddy, because his is all gone."—*Pathfinder*

39. KIND WORD

THE TIRED businessman dropped into a restaurant and said to the waitress: "Bring me some toast, two soft-boiled eggs, a cup of coffee, and a kind word."

After serving the order, as she was about to go away, the man said, "Where's the kind word?"

"Don't eat the eggs," whispered the waitress.

40. NATURAL MISTAKE FOR A PREACHER TO MAKE

AN ELDERLY near-sighted minister, with coattails flying, raced down the village street and across lawns trying to get his hat which had blown from his head.

"What on earth are you doing, parson?" asked a lady parishioner.

"I'm trying to recover my hat," he panted.

"Well, that isn't your hat you're chasing; it's my little black hen," said the good sister.

41. MIGHT SURPRISE HIMSELF

SOMEWHAT overwhelmed by an eulogistic introduction, praising his charm and ability as a speaker, he faced his audience and began his speech: "Ladies and gentlemen, I can hardly wait to hear what I'm going to say."—*Builders*

42. HE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN

"I WANT to be procrastinated at the next corner," said the passenger to the bus driver.

"You want to be what?" demanded the driver.

"Read your dictionary, young man," said the high-brow passenger, "and you will find that 'procrastinate' means 'put off.'"

43. PROGRESS

THE HUMAN race must be getting stronger. Back in the thirties it took two men to carry ten dollars worth of groceries. Now any little boy can carry that much.

44. HAD THE KNOW-HOW

"AND WHAT will you do with the dime you ask of me?" asked the man of the hobo.

"I want to buy some paper and a pencil to write a success story for a magazine," he replied.

45. UNANSWERED PRAYER

LITTLE EDDIE was almost finished with his night prayers. "Bless my mama, bless my papa, bless Aunt Kate, and please make St. Louis the capital of Missouri."

"Why, darling," exclaimed his mother, "why did you say such a thing?"

"Because," answered Eddie, snuggling down under his blanket,

"that's what I put on my examination paper."—*Young Catholic Messenger*

46. HINT TO THE WISE

"I DON'T mind your looking at your watches during my sermon," said the pastor, "but what irritates me is when you put them to your ears to see if they are still running."

47. WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

THE NEW minister had a doctor's degree and was proud of it. When he signed letters, he always wrote, "Dr. John ——."

A parishioner invited him to dinner and received a reply so hopelessly scrawled she could not make out if he had accepted or otherwise.

Her husband suggested: "Take it to the corner druggist. Druggists can always read doctors' writing, no matter how bad it is."

She did so. After looking at the note for a moment, the druggist took it to the back of the store. In five minutes he came out with a bottle of pills and said to the lady: "There you are, ma'am; that will be two dollars and fifty cents."

48. THE PLEASURE'S MUTUAL

AFTER the wedding ceremony the kindly old minister eyed the nervous bridegroom sympathetically and remarked, "Well, my friend, here's your lawfully wedded wife."

The young man grew red in the face, shuffled his feet, and turned to the bride and mumbled, "Pleased to meet you."

49. MEET THE AUTHOR

EDITOR: "Did you write this poem yourself?"

Contributor: "Yes, every line of it."

Editor: "Then I'm glad to meet you, Edgar Allen Poe; I thought you were dead long ago."—*The Watchman-Examiner*

50. ABSENCE EXPLAINED

WALTER was going to have a party, and his mother insisted on his inviting, among others, a neighbor's boy with whom he had had an argument. He finally promised to do so, but on the day of the party the neighbor's boy failed to turn up.

Walter's mother became suspicious. "Did you invite Charlie?" she asked.

"Of course I did, mother. I not only invited him to come; I dared him to."—*The Builders*

51. AT OTHER PLACES TOO

TEACHER: "What are the people of New York noted for?"

Boy: "For their stupidity."

Teacher: "Wherever did you get that idea?"

Boy: "It says here in this book that the population of New York is very dense."

52. MEMORY LAPSE

THE ABSENT-MINDED professor was having a physical checkup.

"Stick out your tongue and say 'Ah,'" commanded the doctor.

"Ah," said the professor.

"It looks all right," said the doctor, "but why the postage stamp?"

"Oh, ho!" said the professor. "So that's where I left it!"

53. FORMULA FOR A GOOD SPEECH

A GOOD beginning and a good ending, and both close together.

54. REPORT WAS EXAGGERATED

IN A CERTAIN town a report went the rounds that a local pastor had gone to a place where his wife was attending a meeting against his will. He dragged her from the place and forced her to go home. Upon learning of the gossip the minister inserted an item in the local paper, as follows:

"In the first place I never attempted to influence my wife in her views or her choice of a meeting.

"In the second place my wife did not attend the meeting in question.

"In the third place I did not attend the meeting.

"In the fourth place neither my wife nor myself had any inclination to go to the meeting.

"Finally, I do not now have and never had a wife."

55. NONSECTARIAN

THE HOTEL clerk was astonished to see a guest parading through the lobby clad in pajamas.

"Here, man, what are you doing?" he exclaimed.

Snapping out of his daze the guest explained: "I'm sorry, but you see I am a somnambulist."

"Well," said the clerk, "you can't walk around here like that no matter what your religion is."

56. THEORIES DON'T ALWAYS WORK OUT

A YOUNG student of child psychology gave a lecture he called "Ten Commandments for Parents." He married and became a father. Then he altered the title of the lecture to "Ten Hints for Parents." A child arrived, and he then lectured on "Some Suggestions for Parents." When the third child arrived, he stopped lecturing.

57. VERY EVIDENT

"Why do they call it a mixed quartette?"

"Just listen!"

58. WHY WORK?

A TOURING American go-getter noticed an Indian chief lolling at the door of his wigwam. A conversation followed.

"Chief," remonstrated the go-getter, "why don't you get a job in a factory?"

"Why?" grunted the chief.

"Well, you could earn a lot of money. Maybe thirty or forty dollars a week."

"Why?" insisted the chief.

"Oh, if you worked hard and saved your money, you'd soon have a bank account. Wouldn't you like that?"

"Why?" again asked the chief.

"I'll tell you," shouted the go-getter. "With a bank account you could retire, and then you wouldn't have to work any more."

"Not working now," pointed out the chief.—*Builders*

59. FEW WORDS

FLORIST: "You want to say it with flowers, sir? How about a few dozen roses?"

Customer: "Make it a half dozen. I'm a man of few words."

60. THIS EXPLAINS YAWNING

THE BORE was giving the story of his travels in the Swiss Alps and droned on, and on, and on. At one point he remarked: "There I stood, with the abyss yawning before me."

"Excuse me," interjected a bored listener, "but was that abyss yawning before you got there?"

61. OBSCURE TALENT

"Is THERE any instrument you can play?" the hostess asked of the visiting clergyman.

"Not away from home," he replied.

"And what do you play at home?" she insisted.

"Second fiddle!" the parson truthfully replied.

62. WHAT A DAY!

ACCORDING to a young woman's own testimony the following things happened to her in a single day:

"It was perfect torture to get up this morning."

"Shut the window; I'm frozen stiff."

"I'm crazy over art."

"I was petrified."

"I'm completely exhausted."

"I split my sides laughing."

"I'm simply stuffed."

"I nearly had a fit."

"I'm just about dead."

63. ORATORY

"IF YOU say black is white, that's foolish. But if you say black is white, and bellow like a bull, and pound the table with both fists, that's oratory."

64. A SHORT, SHORT STORY

"GRANDFATHER had a farm; father had a garden; son had a can opener."

65. NO USE REPEATING

THE WIFE had been at her club all afternoon and served her husband a dinner of leftovers. He started to eat without the customary asking of the blessing.

"Why don't you ask the blessing, dear?" asked the wife.

"I believe everything on the table has been blessed before," he replied.

66. ON THE OFFICIAL BOARD TOO

"I UNDERSTAND your son is on the football team. What does he play?"

"I think he's one of the drawbacks."

67. SERMON APPRAISED

THEY WERE wending homeward from the village kirk when Mrs. Mactavish said to Mrs. Macleod: "And what did you think of the young minister's sermon this morning?"

"Weel," said Mrs. Macleod thoughtfully, "I find three faults with his sermon: firstly, he read it; secondly, he dinna read well; and thirdly, it wasn't worth readin'."

68. WHAT BOTHERED HIM

It was Mark Twain who said: "Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they don't understand, but for me I have always noticed that the passages that bother me are those I do understand."

69. IGNORANCE IS BLISS

"BY ALL the known laws which can be proved on paper or in the wind tunnel, the bumblebee cannot fly. The size of his wings in relation to his body, according to mathematical and aeronautical science, simply means on paper that he cannot fly. It is an impossibility. But, of course, the bumblebee doesn't know these rules, so he goes ahead and flies anyway."—*Posted in the briefing room of an American airbase*

70. THE GULLIBLE PUBLIC

"A POLITICAL platform," it has been suggested, "is something for the politicians to stand on and for the voters to swallow."

71. REFUND DESIRED

"PASTOR," asked a young man who had just called at the parsonage, "I came to ask you if it is right for any person to profit by the mistakes of another?"

"Indeed, no!" was the pastor's instant reaction.

"Then, sir," said the sad-faced young man, "perhaps you'd like to return the ten dollars I gave you last October for marrying me."

72. THE OTHER FOOT

A NEW Chinese student who understood but little English had enrolled in one of the college composition classes.

"What is your name?" asked the teacher.

"Yu Yu Tsin Mei," said the student.
"Your name is so long, I'll just call you John."
"What your name?" asked the Chinese boy.
"Mrs. Elmer John McDonald," said the teacher.
"Name very long," remarked the student. "I just call you Charlie."
—*Baptist Student*

73. SHORT STORY

"I Won't" is a tramp. "I Can't" is a quitter. "I Don't Know" is lazy. "I Wish I Could" is a wisher. "I Might" is waking up. "I Will Try" is on his feet. "I Can" is on his way. "I Will" is at work. "I Did" is now the boss.—*The Lookout*

74. HOWDY!

AN ASSISTANT district attorney was questioning a witness who in replying insisted on addressing his answers to the attorney. He was unaccustomed to courtroom procedures.

"Witness," said the judge, "speak to the jury."

The witness turned, looked the jury over, nodded affably, and said, "Howdy!"

75. GOOD IDEA

THE AFTER-DINNER speaker had talked for fifteen minutes. "After having eaten such a wonderful meal," he said, "I feel if I had eaten another bite, I would be unable to talk."

From the far end of the table came an order to the waiter: "Give him a sandwich."

76. THE PROPHETIC OFFICE

"WHAT's his position?"

"He's third assistant guesser in the Weather Bureau."

77. EUREKA

THE STORY is told of an eccentric cello player who sawed away on one note hour after hour and day after day. Someone asked him why he didn't play other notes, as other players did. He answered: "They are hunting it; I have found it."

78. A TIME FOR ALL THINGS

"PASTOR," said a young fellow, "I am a spendthrift. I throw my money around right and left. In this morning's service I want you to pray that I may be cured of this habit."

"Yes, my boy," agreed the pastor, "the prayer will come right after the collection."

79. FIFTY-FIFTY

"I HAVE one hundred members in my congregation," said a preacher, "and they are all workers. Fifty are working for me and fifty against me."

80. LOOKED THAT WAY

A LITTLE girl sitting in church watching a wedding suddenly exclaimed: "Mother, has the girl changed her mind?"

Mother: "Why, what do you mean?"

Little Girl: "Why, she went up the aisle with one man and came back with another."

81. WHAT HE WAS AFTER

THE EMBARRASSED hostess said to the minister: "I thought I suggested you come after supper."

"Right," said the none-too-well-fed itinerant preacher, "that's what I came after."

82. UNDERSTATEMENT

"AND YOU mean to tell me that in your section of California you have 365 days of sunshine a year?"

"Yes, and that's a mighty conservative estimate too."

83. AUTOGRAPHED COPY

A MINISTER who had authored a number of books presented his personal friends with copies, writing on the flyleaf, "To ——— with the compliments of the author."

The minister's little son gave his grandmother a Bible for Christmas and getting his cue from his father, wrote on the flyleaf, "To Grandma with the compliments of the author."—*Link*

84. WAKE UP

A FAMILY moved from the city into the suburbs and thought it wise to purchase a watchdog to guard the house at night. They went to a pet shop and purchased a very large dog for the purpose. Soon afterward the house was broken into by robbers, but the dog slept through the entire robbery. The head of the house went to the dealer and complained.

"Well," explained the dealer, "what you need now is a little dog to wake up the big dog."—*Christian Leader*

85. LITTLE PITCHERS HAVE BIG EARS

"MOTHER," said a little girl at dinner, "isn't this roast beef we're having?"

"Yes, dear, why do you ask?"

Then gleefully addressing the visiting minister, the little girl remarked, "Daddy is such a tease, he said we would have old Mutton-head for dinner this evening."

86. SOME CHURCH FOLKS THAT WAY

MECHANIC: "The horn on your car must be broken."

Motorist: "No, it's just indifferent."

Mechanic: "What do you mean, indifferent."

Motorist: "It just doesn't give a hoot."

87. WHOSE ZOO

BILL: "We've got an animal family."

Dick: "How's that?"

Bill: "Well, Mother's a dear, Sister's a lamb, I'm a kid, and Dad's the goat."—*American Boy*

88. PIONEERS

"CAN ANY of you children tell me who lived in the Garden of Eden?" asked the Sunday-school teacher.

"Yes, teacher," said a little girl, "I think it was the Adamses."—*Boston Globe*

89. WRONG INTERPRETATION

JUDGING from some prayers we have heard from some of our preachers, we are inclined to believe they have the wrong interpretation of Paul's admonition to "pray without ceasing."—*Presbyterian Advance*

90. LAGGING BEHIND

A NOTORIOUS rabble-rouser once complained to Benjamin Franklin that the constitution of the United States was a mockery. "Where is all the happiness it's supposed to guarantee for us?" he demanded.

"All the constitution guarantees, my friend, is the pursuit of happiness," said Franklin. "You'll have to catch up with it yourself."

91. A HOT ROD

"I HEAR your grandson has a new automobile," said the pastor. "What make is it?"

"I am not sure," replied grandma, "but I think he said it was a Wow."

92. STANDING AND UNDERSTANDING

"SEDENTARY work," said the college lecturer, "tends to lessen the endurance."

"In other words," butted in the smart student, "the more one sits, the less one can stand."

"Exactly," retorted the lecturer, "and if one lies a great deal, one's standing is lost completely."

93. RUDE AWAKENING

WIFE: "I dreamed I was in heaven last night."

Husband: "Was I there?"

Wife: "Yes, that's how I knew it was just a dream."—*American Boy*.

94. HE HAD WHAT IT TAKES

BISHOP PARTRIDGE once asked a certain minister how he had gotten through with a service. The brother answered grimly: "Well, bishop, the service was soothing, moving, and satisfactory."

"Yes?" said the bishop, somewhat puzzled by the answer.

"Exactly," said the minister. "It was soothing because over half the congregation fell asleep. It was moving because half of the other half left before the service was over. And it must have been satisfactory inasmuch as I wasn't asked to come again."

95. COULD BE POSSIBLE

THE VILLAGE minister paused at a neighbor's gate to inquire about the health of her husband, who was seriously ill.

"Oh, he's awful bad off," came the reply; "the doctor said his temperature was 150."

"No, no, you've made a mistake," said the parson; "it couldn't be that much—at least not in this world," he added as an afterthought.

96. SERMON TOO LONG

"WHAT DID you think of my sermon last night?" asked a young preacher of an older one, who had been present.

"Well, if you had cut a great deal off both ends and set fire to the middle, you would have improved it a great deal," was the unexpected reply.

97. HE TOLD A BIG ONE

A BOSTON minister passing along the street noticed a group of urchins clustered around a dog of doubtful pedigree.

"Well, what are you fellows up to?" the preacher asked, with a friendly smile.

"Swapping lies," volunteered one of the boys. "The feller that tells the biggest one gets the pup."

"Boys, boys! I'm shocked," said the minister. "When I was a boy I never thought of telling an untruth."

"You win," chorused the kids; "the dog's yours."

98. UNCONVINCED

AN INTELLECTUAL preacher, thoroughly orthodox and conservative, preached a scholarly sermon in which he set forth his proofs of the existence of God. At the close of the service he asked a kindly old saint, "And how did you like my sermon this morning?"

"It was a wonderful sermon, pastor," agreed the old fellow, "but in spite of all you said, I still believe there's a God."

99. BROTHER!

A ROBBER had just relieved a preacher of his thin wallet when the latter remarked: "You wouldn't take the last cent away from a Methodist preacher, would you?"

"Indeed, no," said the robber as he handed back the wallet; "I'm a Methodist myself."

100. X MARKS THE SPOT

A LITTLE girl was watching her mother mark her ballot in the election of a Sunday-school superintendent.

"You love Mr. ——— best of all, don't you, Mother?" she asked.

"Gracious, child, what a silly question! What makes you say such a thing?" the mother asked.

"Well, doesn't the X you put beside his name mean a kiss?" asked the precocious youngster.

101. PICNIC WAS DOOMED

MARY ELLEN's little friends in planning a picnic left her out. At the last minute they relented and invited her.

"Hurry, dear," urged her mother. "Wash your face and slip on a clean dress while I fix your picnic lunch."

Mary Ellen shook her head. "It's no use, Mother," she explained; "I've already prayed for rain."

102. CO-OPERATION

MRS. BROWN was complaining to her doctor that his bill was too high. "Don't forget," he reminded her, "that I made eleven visits to Tommy when he had the measles."

"And don't you forget," she replied, "that Tommy made you lots of money by giving the measles to the whole school."

103. NO USE TO CRY

A MOTHER walked into another room and found her young son trying to bandage a finger. "My poor child," she cried, "what have you done to your finger?"

"I hit it with a hammer," was the reply.

The mother looked surprised. "But I didn't hear you crying," she remarked.

"No," came the bland reply, "I thought you were out."

104. SEVEN AGES

THE SEVEN ages of woman—the infant, the little girl, the miss, the young woman, the young woman, the young woman, the young woman.—*Link*

105. WHY HE OBJECTED

A CHURCH wedding was in progress, and the minister had just repeated the customary words calling upon any objectors to speak or forever keep silent. To the great consternation of all, a young man rose from his seat in the audience and in a shrill voice exclaimed, "I object! I object!"

Dumbfounded, the minister managed to say, "Why do you object?"

"Because I want her myself," came the obviously sincere reply.

106. THE MILLENNIUM

A HIGH-SCHOOL boy was told to explain the millennium. "The millennium," said he, "is a sort of insect with ten times as many legs as a centennial." We have heard some discussions on the millennium that were just as enlightening.—*Religious Telescope*

107. SIGN LANGUAGE

AN APPLICANT for a driver's license, asked what it means when a driver puts out a hand, answered: "Well, if it's a woman, it means she's going to turn right or left, shake the ashes off her cigarette, or reverse, or stop, or she's pointing to a hat store."—*Calgary Albertan*

108. UNFAIR TO LABOR

CHAIRMAN: "Don't you think, gentlemen, in view of the high cost of living we ought to increase our pastor's salary?"

Vestryman: "That's all right. But don't pay him for overtime on his sermons."

109. JUST SUBSTITOOTING

A WOMAN was watching a parade in which her husband was to march with his lodge. To her amazement, as the lodge with its band passed, she saw her husband, with eyes popping and cheeks puffed, tooting away on a French horn. After the parade the wife said to her husband proudly, "My dear, we have been married all these years and I never knew you could toot a horn."

"I wasn't tooting at all," he confessed; "I was substitooting." It seems the French-horn player didn't show up and the bandmaster wanted to keep up appearances, so the brother was pressed into service, with instructions to go through with the motions but not dare to make a sound.

110. HIS SPECIALTY

"REVEREND," said a worried woman, "can you do anything for my husband? He's worrying about money."

"Yes, indeed," replied the pastor, "I can quickly relieve him of all that."

111. HUSBAND WOULD CO-OPERATE

IN A Charlotte, North Carolina, domestic-relations court the judge listened intently to both sides in a case against an elderly man who was charged by his wife with nonsupport. After all the evidence was in, the judge told the defendant: "You haven't taken proper care of this good woman, and I'm going to grant her \$25 a month."

The defendant beamed with pleasure. "That's mighty nice of Your Honor," he said, "and I'll give her a dollar or two from time to time myself."—A.P.

112. HAD THE KNOW-HOW

A YOUTHFUL county-farm agent, fresh from agricultural college, was trying to convince an elderly farmer of the value of scientific methods in the production of crops.

Exasperated, the farmer said: "See here, young feller, don't you come around here telling me how to farm. I done wore out three farms already."

113. THREE'S A CROWD

A CITY slicker loaded his car with his large family, plus a few friends, and visited an old uncle on the farm. After the introductions there was an awkward pause as the unexpected guests looked for chairs upon which to sit. The parlor had but two chairs.

"Uncle, I don't believe you have enough chairs," suggested the city relative broadly.

"That ain't it," muttered the old uncle. "I got plenty chairs—just too much company."—*Coronet*.

114. THEN LOOK OUT

A QUAKER farmer had a cow that frequently kicked over the milk bucket at milking time. It happened many times, and nothing the farmer could do or say seemed to break the habit. One day in exasperation the farmer said to the cow: "To scold thee or beat thee is against my religion, but if thee continuest to kick over that bucket, I will sell thee to a Lutheran."

115. REFORMATION NEEDED

A SERVICE club in a small town admitted to its membership only one man from each trade or profession. However, two ministers were found to be members of the club, one a minister of the Reformed Church, the other a United Brethren. When asked to explain the matter, the club president said: "One got in because he was Reformed, and the other because he wasn't."

116. HAD A BIGGER KNAVE

A SOLDIER from a small American village visited Westminster Abbey in England. Writing to the folks at home, he told of the glories of the ancient shrine, then wound up by saying: "The architecture is much like our church back home; however, it has a much bigger *knave*."

117. OVERRECOMMENDED

JUDGE: "If this man is, as you say, of no account, why did you ever marry him?"

Plaintiff: "Well, your honor, he was overrecommended to me."

118. TEMPTING THE TEMPTRESSES

"MISS SMITH," said the proprietor of an ambitious village store to one of his assistants, "do you know anything about the new minister who is coming to the town next week?"

"Yes," replied the girl; "he is a tall, good-looking man, about twenty-eight, and he isn't married."

"Is that so?" said the proprietor. "Well, you may put all the new hats into the front window right away."—*Michigan Christian Advocate*.

119. COURTESY

A MAN stood up in a streetcar and offered a woman his seat. She fainted. When she recovered consciousness, she thanked him. Then he fainted.

120. QUICK-WITTED WIFE

A MINISTER'S wife had a very unwelcome visitor in a very talkative scandalmonger, so the minister went out for a stroll. Returning an hour later and presuming the visitor had left, he called in to his wife: "That old cat's gone, I suppose?"

"Yes," said his wife, "I sent it away in a bag this morning."

Just another example of how some ministers' wives are true help-meets.

121. EDUCATION ON THE FARM

ASKED IF a year in college had made any difference in his eldest son, a farmer of the old school reflected: "Well, he's still a good hand at plowing, but I notice his language has changed some. It used to be, 'Whoa, Becky! Haw and git up! Now when he comes to the end of a row, he says, 'Halt, Rebecca! Pivot and proceed!'"

122. ALL WERE WINNERS

FOUR Scotchmen were drowned while swimming. It seems that each bet a shilling that he could stay under water longer than the others.

123. BE PREPARED

A STUDENT who had failed in all his subjects wired his gentle mother as follows: "Failed in everything. Prepare papa."

The mother wired back: "Papa prepared. Prepare yourself."

124. CAN'T BE HELPED AT TIMES

A PRAYER reported to have been used by Dr. Lyman Beecher contained this petition: "Lord, grant that we may not despise our rulers; and grant, O Lord, that they may act so we can't help it."

125. UNSECTARIAN

MRS. NEWLYRICH, whose educational and religious background left something to be desired, was asked by the architect she had employed to plan her new home if she desired mosaic patterns in the floors.

"No," she replied dubiously, "I haven't a thing against Moses, but when it comes to floors, I'd rather have them nonsectarian."

126. FELT THE CALL

"MOTHER," said a little boy, "I want to be a preacher when I grow up."

"I am so glad," said the proud mother, "and what made you decide you wanted to be a preacher?"

"Well," said the lad, "I guess I'll have to go to church all my life anyway, and I think it's a lot harder to sit still than to stand up and holler."

127. WHAT A MAN!

A CELEBRATED singer was in an auto accident one day. In writing the story for the local newspaper a reporter wrote: "Despite the accident he was able to appear in four pieces at the concert."

128. A MOVING APPEAL

"Do you know what it is to go before an audience?"

"No, I spoke before an audience once, but most of it went before I did."

129. THE GREAT AWAKENING

"DAD," said a small boy, "what is meant by a religious awakening?"

"A religious awakening, my son, is what happens at our church after the preacher has ended his sermon."—*Cincinnati Enquirer*.

130. A LOGICAL ATTITUDE

"WHY ARE all of you fat fellows so good-natured?"

"We have to be good-natured. You see, we can't either fight or run."

131. SOON A HAS-BEEN

A NIGHT watchman heard noises in the dark warehouse. Drawing his revolver, he went to the door and called: "Come out with your hands up, so I can see who you *are*. If you don't, I'll come in and see who you *were*."—*Chicago Tribune*.

132. FOR BETTER OR WORSE

THE PASTOR was trying to reconcile a young couple whose marriage seemed headed for the rocks.

"Remember," said the pastor, addressing the young husband, "you took her for better or worse."

"Yes," replied the disillusioned young husband, "but she's so much worse than I thought she could be."

133. THE BISHOP'S DILEMMA

THE BISHOP was trying to appoint an itinerant preacher to a charge where he would be happy. When he suggested a circuit with appointments that could be reached only on horseback, the preacher remonstrated that he could not ride a horse; when a smaller circuit was suggested, his objection was that too much walking was involved. It was then suggested that he retire, but the brother indignantly said he was too active to just "sit down." When the appointments were read, the bishop announced: "Brother ——— can neither *ride*, nor *walk*, nor *sit*, so I have decided the only thing to do is *suspend* him."

134. THEN AND NOW!

IN 1837 the following rules were in force at Mount Holyoke College: "No young lady shall become a member of Mount Holyoke Seminary who cannot kindle a fire, wash potatoes, repeat the multiplication table and at least two thirds of the shorter catechism. Every member of the school shall walk a mile a day unless a freshet, earthquake, or some other calamity prevent. No young lady shall devote more than an hour a day to miscellaneous reading. No young lady is expected to have gentlemen acquaintances unless they are returned missionaries or agents of benevolent societies."

135. ADVANTAGES OF EDUCATION

As the cannibals were heating the kettle preparatory to enjoying their favorite dish, the chief engaged the proposed victim in conversation. "So you're from America," he said. "I happen to be a graduate of one of your great colleges."

"You're a college graduate and still want to devour human flesh?" cried the anguished tourist.

"Well," said the chief, "I at least learned how to use a knife and fork."

136. MAKES SENSE

ONE DAY John Wesley was walking with a troubled man who expressed his doubt as to the goodness of God. He said, "I do not know what I shall do with all this worry and trouble."

At that moment Wesley saw a cow looking over a stone wall. "Do you know," asked Wesley, "why that cow is looking over the stone wall?"

"No," said the worried man.

"The cow is looking over the stone wall because she can't see through it. That is what you must do with your wall of trouble—look over it and above it."

137. A MAN'S JOB AFTER ALL

TO BACK up her claim that her husband should help with the dishes, a wife showed him this scriptural passage: "And I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down." (II Kings 21:13.) The verse at least indicates that man does the job thoroughly when he does do it.

138. MERRY CHRISTMAS

AN ELDERLY pastor, looking over his large congregation on an Easter morning, startled them with this announcement: "My friends, realizing that I will not see many of you until next Easter, may I take this opportunity to wish all of you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!"

139. AND PROUD OF IT

AN ELDERLY lady walked into a bank and stated she wished to buy a defense bond. "What denomination?" asked the teller.

"Methodist," proudly answered the customer.

140. SELF-APPOINTED

A GANGLING young man went to the county clerk's office and asked for a marriage license.

"Where's the bride-elect?" asked the clerk.

"What d'ya mean bride-elect?" said the young man. "There was no election. She appointed herself."—*Harvard Crimson*

141. LADIES' AID WAS BUSY

THE TREASURER of the Ladies' Aid Society went to the town bank to make a deposit for the society. Handing the money and book to the teller, she said: "Here's the Aid money."

The teller thought she said "egg money" and desiring to be pleasant, remarked: "Well, the old hens certainly were busy last week, weren't they?"

142. THE EGOTIST

"A WOODPECKER was hammering away on an old hickory tree in the woods. He was making the bark fly when a bolt of lightning out of the sky shattered that old tree into splinters. The woodpecker died thinking he had done it."

143. TIME TO PRAY

THE MINISTER had announced the hymn "I love to steal awhile away," and the chorister took over. He began hopefully, "I love to steal—" but found that he had pitched the note too high. Again he began, "I love to steal—," but this time it was too low. He was just about to make a third try when the minister broke in with, "My brethren, in view of our brother's weakness let us pray."

144. THE JONESES COULDN'T KEEP UP

THERE'S a simple way to keep up with the Joneses. Just slow down and soon you'll meet them coming back.—*Grocers' Advocate*.

145. WHY PEOPLE GET COLD FEET

AN EDUCATOR says that the process of thinking draws blood from the feet to the head. That may explain why some people get cold

feet when they begin to think, also why some people's feet never get cold, and why some have such cool heads.

146. OLD STUFF WITH HIM

WALKING along a street a man was attracted by frightened screams from a house. Rushing in he found a mother frantic because her little son had swallowed a quarter. Seizing the child by the heels, he held him up, gave him a few shakes, and the coin dropped to the floor. The grateful mother was lost in admiration.

"You certainly knew how to get it out of him," she said. "Are you a doctor?"

"No, madam," the man replied, "I'm from the Internal Revenue Bureau."

147. MODERN GRANDMA

RED RIDINGHOOD: "What big ears you have, grandmother!"

Grandmother: "Yes, this boyish bob shows them up frightfully."

148. RAILROAD

"YES, SIR," said the marrying parson, "I marry at least a hundred couples a year right here in this parsonage."

"Parsonage!" exclaimed his visitor. "I wouldn't call this a parsonage; I'd call it a union depot."

149. THROW IT A BONE

"YOU FEED your body twenty-one times a week, whether it is hungry or not. Then why not throw your soul a bone once a week at least, even if it doesn't seem hungry? The poor thing may be too weak from starvation to make its wants known."—JOHN ANDREW HOLMES

150. PREMATURE SUGGESTION

A YOUNG widow had just buried her second husband and was consulting with an attorney about settling his estate.

"You will surely get a third out of the estate," the lawyer assured her.

The widow replied: "Don't you think it is a little soon to think about my third, since my second is hardly cold in his grave?"

151. NOBODY HOME!

"HUBBY, dear," said a loving wife, "I do wish you would stay home tonight. I am so afraid to stay alone. I always imagine there is somebody in the house, but when you are here, I know there isn't."

152. IMPORTANT DETAIL

A WEALTHY man was briefing his sons on how to make money. "All my success in life, my financial standing," he said proudly, "I owe to one thing alone—pluck, pluck, pluck!"

"O. K., Dad," said one of the boys, "but how are we going to find the right people to pluck?"

153. THE GREETER WAS EMBARRASSED

A MINISTER was asked to offer the invocation at a businessmen's convention and was met at the door by the official greeter. Reaching out his hand and flashing a broad smile, the greeter asked the minister in one breath who he was, where he came from, and what was his line.

"I am the Rev. John Jones," said the minister. "I live around the corner, and I am pastor of the church in which you hold membership, but which you have not attended in years."

154. A BREAK FOR THE LADIES

MINISTER: "I wish to announce that on Wednesday evening the ladies' aid will have a rummage sale. This is a chance for all the women of the congregation to get rid of anything that is not worth keeping, but is too good to be thrown away. Don't forget to bring your husbands."—*The Lookout*

155. A CASE OF EYESTRAIN

A CERTAIN congregation noticed their pastor had taken to wearing glasses. Upon inquiry it was found that he had strained his eyes looking for official members at the midweek prayer meeting.

156. MULES AND PEOPLE

WHEN a boy in his composition on the mule said that the "mule is awfully backward about going forward," he was giving a mighty good description of some people we have met.

157. PREACHER OBJECTED—BRIDE DIDN'T

Bob Jenks upon his wedding day
Was a most excited creature;
He handed his wife the marriage fee
And tried to kiss the preacher.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

158. EVOLUTION OF PATRIOTISM

PATRICK HENRY in characteristic deliberation said, "Give me liberty or give me death." The next generation shouted, "Give me liberty." The present generation shouts, "Give me."

159. WE'VE HEARD SOME LIKE THAT

AN INDIAN was persuaded to attend a lecture. When it was all over, someone asked him what he thought of it.

"Huh!" he grunted. "Big wind. Lotta dust. No rain."

160. THE WORK HORSE

ONE FARM boy asked another what it meant to install a preacher. "Oh, that's simple," said another; "it means to put him in a stall and feed him." But those who know might have a different version—it is more like harnessing him up for the work he is to do.

161. FOR BETTER OR WORSE

"I'M SORRY you're leaving us, Anna," said the mistress to her maid, "but I'll not stand in the way if you are going to better yourself."

"Oh, no, ma'am," said the maid; "I'm just getting married."

162. BETTER LET IT GO AT THAT

SOMEBODY, in an article in a preacher's magazine raises the question: Should ministers be called "Reverend?" The reaction of one brother was this: "Well, so far as we are concerned, we would rather be called that than some of the things we have heard preachers called."

163. RIGHT

AFTER listening to American songs sent over to this country, we understand why the people of the United States call their largest prison "Sing Sing."—*The Humorist, London*

164. THE OLD AND THE NEW

IN THE old days if anybody missed a stagecoach, he was contented to wait two or three days for the next one. Now he lets out a squawk if he misses a section of a revolving door.—*Watchman-Examiner*

165. POOR DAD

"MOTHER, should I run out and mail this letter?" asked a little girl.
"No, darling, it's raining in torrents and not fit for a dog to be out. Let your father go."—*Boys' Industrial School Journal*

166. DISTINCTIVE

ADAM and Eve were naming the creatures of the earth when along came a huge animal.

"Adam, let's call him a rhinoceros," suggested Eve.

"Why?"

"Well, he looks more like a rhinoceros than anything else we've seen."—*The Lookout*

167. A DIFFERENT PROBLEM

THE RURAL teacher was introducing the study of arithmetic to a class of youngsters.

"If a farmer's boy by himself could pick six quarts of berries in an hour and a girl could pick five quarts, how many quarts would they pick together?"

"Teacher," said an overgrown lad, "I don't know exactly how many, but it wouldn't be eleven."

168. FAIR WARNING

THE QUAKER had heard a strange noise in the night and, waking, found a burglar ransacking his kitchen. He took his gun from beside his bed and aiming at the intruder, said: "Friend, I would do thee no harm for this world and all that is in it, but thee standest where I am about to shoot."

169. MORE AND MORE ABOUT LESS AND LESS

"THE CREATION of the world is told in Genesis in 400 words," says the *New York Sun*. "The Ten Commandments have only 297 words and the Declaration of Independence has 1,821 words, but a government pamphlet required 2,500 words to announce a reduction in the price of cabbage seed."

170. SOMETHING HAD TO HAPPEN

"WHAT CAUSED that terrible explosion on Si's farm?"

"He fed a chick some 'Lay or Bust' and it turned out to be a rooster."

171. NO END IN SIGHT

A CLERGYMAN who was given to both long-windedness and fanciful flights of oratory was just getting warmed up to his subject after an hour and a half. He was discussing immortality. He said, in part: "I looked up to the mountains and I said, 'Mighty as you are, you will be destroyed; but my soul will not.' I gazed at the ocean and cried, 'Vast as you are, you will eventually dry up, but not I.'"

And he still wonders why a wave of merriment swept over the congregation.

172. FOLLOW THE LEADER

"Now in case anything should go wrong with this experiment," said the professor of chemistry, "we and the laboratory will be blown sky-high. Now come a little closer, boys, in order that you may follow me."

173. THERE'S A DIFFERENCE

"THE DIFFERENCE between listening to a radio sermon and going to church," says a writer in a youth magazine, "is the same as the difference between calling your girl on the telephone and spending an evening with her."

174. TAX NOT INCLUDED

A MAN was asked where his money went. "Oh, about 40 per cent for food, 30 per cent for shelter, 30 per cent for clothing, and 20 per cent for amusements and incidentals."

"But that adds up to 120 per cent!"

The other sighed, "And don't I know it!"

175. TASTED LIKE MORE

MISSIONARY: "My poor man, so you know nothing whatever about religion?"

Cannibal: "Oh, yes, we got a taste of it when the last missionary was here."

176. MODERN MAN

WHEN YOU have to keep your back to the wall and your ear to the ground . . . and your shoulder to the wheel . . . and your nose to the grindstone . . . your head level . . . and both feet on the ground—you're not a contortionist; you're just like the rest of us.
—*Phoenix Flame*

177. LEGAL LANGUAGE

A YOUNG lawyer attended the funeral of a millionaire. A friend arrived late and took a seat beside him. He whispered, "How far has the service gone?"

The lawyer nodded toward the clergyman in the pulpit and whispered back: "Just opened the defense."—*Volta Review*

178. COMING OR GOING

As THE absent-minded professor went 'round and 'round in the revolving door, he became confused. "Bless my soul," he said to himself, "I can't remember whether I was going or coming."

179. PLAYBOY

"ARE YOU the game warden?" asked a lady over the telephone.

"Yes, I am the game warden," was the reply.

"Oh, I am so glad," said the lady. "Will you please suggest some games for a party at our church?"

180. WE KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN

A FRIEND of ours says he always becomes nervous when his wife approaches him with her hat in her hand. He doesn't know if it is a new one for which he will have to pay or one he accidentally sat on.

181. AN INGRATE

A DEACON was entertaining a few of his friends at dinner. One of them, not used to the custom of asking the blessing before eating, proceeded to fill his plate before the deacon finally prayed: "Lord, for what we are about to receive, and for what our friend Thompson has already received, make us truly thankful. Amen."—*Boys' Industrial School Journal*

182. LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

"I'LL be good for a penny, Mother," coaxed little William hopefully.

"Oh, Willie," replied his mother, "why can't you be like your father? He isn't good for a penny. He's good for nothing."—*Christian Science Monitor*

183. SLIGHTLY CONFUSED

MR. CROWE was a devout church member. The young minister of his church was also devout, but easily embarrassed and confused. Imagine the consternation of Mr. Crowe and the delight of the congregation when the young divine solemnly said at a prayer meeting: "And now will Brother Pray please crow for us?"

184. CONCENTRATION

PROFESSOR (lecturing on the rhinoceros), "I must ask the class for undivided attention. You cannot get a good idea of this subject unless you keep your eyes on me."

185. OUT OF LUCK

"ONE DAY fortune actually knocked on a fellow's door. But the fellow didn't hear it. He was over at a neighbor's telling a hard-luck story."

186. MANY CHURCHES HAVE THEM

A daily paper recently carried a want ad in which a congregation advertised for slightly used church pews. Well, that's something that isn't hard to find, even though they may not be for sale.

187. WHAT A WOMAN!

"THAT's a hard-working little wife you have, Bob," said a friend.

"Indeed she is that," replied the proud husband; "I wish I had a couple more like her."

188. A MATTER OF DEGREES

A divinity scholar named Tweedle
Once wouldn't accept his degree—
'Cause its tough enough being Tweedle
Without being Tweedle, D. D."

—*Gold Leaflet*

189. RHYME WITH REASON

A laddie at college named Breeze,
Weighed down by B.A's and M.D's,
Collapsed from the strain.
Said the doctor, "It's plain
You're killing yourself by degrees."

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

190. UNIQUE INVENTION

A CHURCH treasurer has come up with an invention that should have a ready sale once it is on the market. It is a collection plate with several gadgets. When you put a nickel in, a gong rings once; when you put a dime in, the gong rings twice; when you drop a quarter in, the gong rings three times. And when you put a penny in, it fires a shot.

A friend of the inventor has suggested that another feature might be to have it take a picture of the fellow who puts nothing in.

191. BLOWING YOUR OWN HORN

A STORY credited both to Abraham Lincoln and to Mark Twain is that there once plied the waters of the Mississippi a steamboat that stopped dead every time its whistle was blown. It couldn't proceed until more steam was developed. How like some speakers we have known—so busy blowing their horns they have no time or power to go places and do things. Well, perhaps it is as someone has suggested: "Blessed are they that toot their own horns, for verily they shall be well tooted."

192. RECIPE FOR A NUT SUNDAY

"STAY ABED until ten. Read Sunday paper until one. Feed your face until three. Lop around until nine. Nothing doing; nothing done. Good night!"—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

193. WHERE THE PENNIES WENT

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL teacher had on a lovely new frock which the children greatly admired. All of them expressed their approval of it but little Mary. Finally she remarked thoughtfully: "We had to bring our pennies to Sunday school for lots and lots of Sundays before you could buy that dress, didn't we, teacher?"—*Harper's Weekly*

194. CAUSE FOR THANKSGIVING

"NEXT WEDNESDAY," said the pastor, "we will give thanks to God for the troubles we have never had." So at the next meeting one woman said: "I thank God I have never had appendicitis." Another was ready with: "I am thankful I have never had to have an operation." A third: "I thank God I have never had a drunken husband."

Thereupon a fourth got up and said: "I thank God I've never had a husband of any sort!"—*Record of Christian Work*

195. VERSATILE

"JONES is one of those fellows who pat you on your back before your face and hit you in the eye behind your back."

196. LOST OPPORTUNITY

REPORTERS were interviewing an old man who was celebrating his one-hundredth birthday anniversary.

"And if you had your life to live over again, what would you do differently?" asked one of the reporters.

After a period of meditation and reflection the centenarian solemnly said, "Well, I would part my hair in the middle."

197. PUNISHMENT

THE WIFE of an adventurer took a philosophic view of it when she heard her husband had been eaten by cannibals.

"One consolation," she said; "they are going to get very sick."

"How do you know that?" asked a friend.

"Well, my husband never did agree with anybody."

198. CLOSE SHAVE

AN EVANGELIST who couldn't shave himself found himself in a small town where there was no barber. Finally the hotel clerk directed him to a friend who might be willing to perform the service as a favor. To the astonishment of the evangelist the man said, "I'll attempt to shave you on one condition, that you lie flat on this table." Eagerly desiring a shave the evangelist stretched out on the table and soon was neatly shaved. Highly pleased, he tipped the impromptu barber, then asked: "But why did you make me lie on the table?"

"Well," explained the man, "you see I'm an undertaker and you are the first live man I've ever shaved."

199. A MATTER OF DEGREES

"Yes," said the intellectual, "I have a degree from Harvard and another from Yale."

"Now tell us about the third degree the police gave you," suggested an acquaintance.

200. NEW LOCATION

THE CITY National Bank of Binghamton, New York, sent flowers recently to the management of the Binghamton Savings Bank, congratulating the latter institution upon the opening of its new facilities. But, unfortunately, the card accompanying the flowers read: "Deepest Sympathy."

Later, the florist who made the mistake called the bank to apologize. What really worried him, he added, was the other bouquet, intended for a funeral, and carrying the message intended for the bank—"Congratulations on your new location."—GEORGE O'CONNOR, *Binghamton Sun*

201. TAKE YOUR CHOICE

A LADIES' Aid Society president who was quite deaf had asked the pastor to announce that the society had hymnbooks for sale. While the pastor was announcing that on the following Sabbath he would baptize infants, the deafened lady, thinking he was talking about the hymnals, arose and remarked: "The stiff-backed ones are one dollar each, and the limp-backed ones are fifty cents."

202. SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

A LADY was alone in her home knitting peacefully when a telegram arrived, telling her a distant cousin had passed away and left her a

million dollars. Half the thrill of getting news like that, of course, comes from telling others about it. The little lady dropped her knitting, ran to the telephone, and cried excitedly, "Hello, operator! Get me anybody!"—BENNETT CERF

203. GOT WHAT HE WANTED

MRS. VAN GILT was lolling on a sofa, eating bon bons while a maid cared for her young son, just outside the door on the patio. The youngster, badly spoiled, was in tantrums.

"Give that child whatever he wants!" called out Mrs. Van Gilt to the maid.

The little fellow soon stepped up the tempo and volume of his yelling.

"Didn't I tell you to give him anything he wants?" called out Mrs. Van Gilt.

"Yes'm," replied the maid, "it was a bee he wanted, and he's got it."

204. LOST AND FOUND

WHEN President Garfield was a college boy, so the story goes, with two live-wire companions he was walking along a street when an aged man with a long white beard, using two canes, approached. Garfield, for no particular reason, bowed politely and said, "Good morning, Father Abraham!" Taking his cue from that, another boy said, "Good morning, Father Isaac!" and the third, not to be outdone, exclaimed, "Good morning, Father Jacob!"

The old man glared at them over his spectacles and said: "Young men, I am neither Abraham, Isaac, nor Jacob. I am Saul, the son of Kish. I am out looking for my father's asses, and I have found them."

205. HE BETTERED THE AVERAGE

A PREACHER was nearing the end of his first journey on a Pullman coach. He had little of this world's goods, yet he wanted to be a good sport and play the game according to the rules. So he asked the porter, "What is the average tip?"

"Two dollars," was the porter's ready answer. The preacher thought the amount was rather large, but he handed it over. "Boss," said the delighted porter, "you is the first one what ever come up to the average."

206. THAT'S THE QUESTION

DURING their senior year in high school some girls were discussing the matter of choosing colleges. One girl came up with this contribution: "Well," she said, "first you've got to decide whether you want to go to a coeducational school or an educational one."

207. WELL TOASTED

UPON being introduced as the toast of radio, the toast of movies, and the toast of television, Dinah Shore responded with: "I love the way you buttered that toast!"—*Reader's Digest*

208. MINORITY RULE

THE JURY of eleven men and one woman had spent many hours in the jury room without reaching a verdict. Finally the lone woman juror remarked: "If you eleven men were not so stubborn, we could all go home."

209. PARENTS ARE THAT WAY

RETURNING to their mountain home after visiting their son in an army camp, the parents reported: "And while we were there, they held a big parade; and of the thousands of soldiers in the parade our Jack was the only one in step."

210. SINFUL NEIGHBORS

MAID: "The new neighbors want to cut their grass, mum, and they sent over to ask the loan of your lawn mower."

Mistress: "Lend them our mower to cut grass on the Sabbath day! Most certainly not! Tell them we don't have any mower."

211. WORLDLY-MINDED

AN ELDERLY village sinner was supposedly at the door of death, and the parson was sent for. After a fervent prayer the pastor asked the dying man if he wished to say anything. He answered: "I was just lying here wondering if it isn't about time to put the cabbage plants out."

212. HIS DIAGNOSIS

THE VOTERS of a North Carolina county were considering an increase in the schoolteachers' salaries, which would entail a rise in taxes. A farmer was asked what the general sentiment seemed to be.

"Well," he said slowly, "as best I can see it, almost everybody is in sympathy with it, but hardly anybody is in favor of it."—J. CALVIN REID

213. CONGRATULATIONS!

"MY BOY," said the bride's father to his new son-in-law, "you're the second-happiest man in the world."—*Pete Simer*

214. THE OLD MUST STEP ASIDE

A SMALL boy told his father that when he grew up, he wanted to drive a big army tank.

"Well, son," said his dad, "if that's what you want to do, I certainly won't stand in your way."

215. WHAT'S IN A NAME?

"WHAT funny names these Chinese towns in the news have," remarked a man from Schenectady as he read a Poughkeepsie newspaper on his way to meet a friend from Hackensack.

216. MAYBE RIGHT AT THAT

A POLICEMAN rang a doorbell and a scared-looking young woman appeared and asked: "What do you want?"

The policeman replied: "Well, miss, we've had a telephone report that a fellow named Beethoven was being murdered in this house."
—*Chicago Tribune*

217. FALSE ECONOMY

A CERTAIN man, noted for his thrift, decided to make extra long steps in order to save on shoes. To his dismay, however, he discovered that his long strides had split his pants. Economy is great stuff, but be sure it is not false economy.

218. EXPERIENCED AT IT

THE STRONG man at a circus side show gave an exhibition of his strength by squeezing an orange to pulp, then offered an award to anybody who could get another drop of juice out of it. A thin, fallow, undersized man stepped up, took the orange, squeezed it, and out came several more drops of juice. The astonished strong man asked him how he could perform such a feat. "I've been a church treasurer for thirty years," he said, "and I'm experienced at that sort of thing."

219. BUILDING PROBLEMS

A CERTAIN congregation was about to erect a new church edifice. The building committee, in consecutive meetings, passed the following resolutions: (1) We shall build a new church. (2) The new building is to be located on the site of the old one. (3) The material in the old building is to be used in the new one. (4) We shall continue to use the old building until the new one is completed.

220. A BANQUET

SOMEONE has defined a banquet as "an affair where you eat a lot of food you don't want before talking about something you don't understand to a crowd of people who don't want to hear you."

221. HARMONY

A LONG-HAIRED man was in a shoe store, selecting a pair of shoes. Many times he flexed and bent the soles of the shoes he was interested in. Finally he explained to the clerk. "You see," said he, "I'm an orchestra conductor and I want shoes that squeak in the same key."

222. DISADVANTAGES OF SUCCESS

Two men went into business together—one an optimist, the other a pessimist. Their enterprise was a success from the start.

"Well," said the optimist, "our first month has been wonderful. We have had a continual run of customers."

"Yes," replied his pessimistic partner, "but look at those front doors. If customers keep shoving through them, the hinges will be worn out in another week."—*American Eagle*

223. ARISTOCRACY

"THIS TABLE," said an aristocratic lady, "goes back to Louis the Fourteenth."

"You don't have a thing on me," replied her maid; "my dining-room set goes back to Sears on the thirteenth."

224. COAT OF ARMS

THE STORY is that a would-be aristocratic lady once asked President Lincoln if his family could boast a coat of arms. "Indeed, yes!" replied the one-time rail splitter, "it's a pair of shirt sleeves. Would you like to see them?"

225. MAYBE LUCKY AT THAT

"WHAT a world! To be a valedictorian and then have to take a job working under a fellow who dropped out at the eighth grade."

226. USEFUL PROFESSION

A GI asking for a loan was asked what his business was and gave the startling answer that he was a psychiatrist in a pottery factory. Further questioning drew out the information that he took care of the cracked pots.—*Christian Observer*

227. AMEN! AMEN!

IN A certain conference of ministers the subject of higher education was being discussed. One brother found considerable satisfaction in being able to boast that he was not a product of the "preacher factories," as he termed the denomination's schools. "I thank God for my ignorance," he exclaimed.

"Brother," said the presiding bishop, "you apparently have a lot to be thankful for."

228. BY THEIR FRUITS

A BOY and girl had a *date*. He thought she was a *peach*, and he became the *apple* of her eye. They soon were *plum* crazy about each other and in due time became a happily married *pair*.

229. SPEAKING ACQUAINTANCE

Often when I pass a church
I drop in for a visit,
So that when I'm carried in,
The Lord won't say, "Who is it?"
—TOM OLSON, *Now*

230. A DIRTY DIG

AN UNSOPHISTICATED freshman asked another what was the significance of the "mortar board." "I'll try to explain," said the other, "although it is a complicated matter. You see, when a mortar board is carried by a builder, it often has cement on top; when it is worn by a professor, it often has cement underneath."

231. DEFLATED

AN EGOTISTICAL young minister for some reason was given an honorary degree. Soon thereafter he asked a friend in his old home town what the people had to say about it. "They don't say anything," was the frank reply; "they just laugh."

232. WHAT IS MAN?

WE HAVE heard a lot of confusing answers to that question. We have heard man called a beast, a skunk, a snake in the grass, a mule, a jackass, a monkey, an ape, a wolf, a fox, a bear, a dog, a worm, a leech, a parasite, a colt, a snail, a goose, a parrot, a duck, an owl, a buzzard, a poor fish, a shark, a clam, and a slippery eel. Well, one thing is certain—man is “fearfully and wonderfully made.”

233. THEY ARE IN YOUR CHURCH

SOME church people are like the flint—you have to hit them hard to get anything from them, and then you get only chips and sparks; some are like the sponge—the more you squeeze them, the more you get from them; some are like the honeycomb—they just ooze and overflow with sweetness, giving without pressure.

234. VACATIONS OFTEN THAT WAY

A SMALL boy went to a Sunday-school picnic, but it hardly met his expectations. He was stung by a bee; he fell into a creek; a little girl pulled his hair; he got badly sunburned. As he arrived home, limping and disheveled, his mother greeted him and asked: “Well, sonny, what kind of time did you have at the picnic?”

“Mama,” slowly replied the little fellow, “I’m so glad I’m back I’m glad I went.”

235. TAKING ADVICE

Two battered old wrecks were sitting on a park bench exchanging confidences. One said: "My trouble is I would never take advice from anybody."

The other said: "My trouble is I took everybody's advice."

236. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THIS

A SCIENTIST has it figured out that in 36,000,000 years the moon will be close enough to the earth to create tides 650 feet high. That would endanger the safety of most of the inhabitants of the globe. Well, we'll cross that bridge when we get to it.

237. TOO MANY MONEY APPEALS

SAID a somewhat penurious layman to his pastor: "You are always begging for money. If you don't stop shearing wool off the sheep that lays the golden egg, you'll pump it dry."

238. ADDS UP RIGHT

A PROFESSIONAL entertainer had been engaged to feature a social hour with a humorous talk. At the last minute he had to cancel the engagement, so two of the brethren present were drafted for the emergency. However, the presiding officer made this tactless introduction: "We had engaged a famous wit as our entertainer for this event, but he couldn't be with us, so we are substituting two half-wits."

239. WORSE THAN LYING

A POLITICIAN running for office was very much incensed at certain remarks that had been made about him by the town's leading newspaper. He burst into the editorial room and accosted the editor.

"See here," he angrily exclaimed, "you are telling lies about me in your paper and you know it."

"Well, that's nothing to get upset about," retorted the editor calmly. Just suppose we told the *truth* about you?"—F. G. KERNAN

240. WE'RE IN THE MAJORITY

SOMEBODY has observed that there are three classes of people in the United States: the intellectual, the handsome—and the majority.

241. WATCH YOUR RHETORIC

A TEXAS preacher is reported to have waxed eloquent at the funeral of one of his laymen. He said, looking down at the casket, "My friends, these remains are not our brother. They are but the empty shell. The nut has gone above."

242. YOUR CHANGE CAN HELP AN AILING CHURCH TOO

JUDGE: "Now tell me, why did you steal that purse?"

Prisoner: "Your honor, I was not feeling well, and I thought the change would do me good."

243. CAUSED COMPLICATIONS

A NEW church member was asked if joining the church had resulted in his stopping his sinning. "No," came the reply, "but it surely has complicated it."

244. SET IN THEIR WAYS

IN A school essay on parents a small girl wrote: "We get our parents when they are so old it is very hard to change their habits."—*Mary Alkus*

245. WHAT PRICE POPULARITY?

A PROFESSOR was astonished to learn, through various remarks, that a certain girl was disliked and very unpopular with the other coeds. "Why is she so unpopular?" he asked one of the girls.

"Oh, didn't you know? She won last year's popularity contest."

246. ROUTINE COMPLIMENTS

JUST before a service the choir leader remarked to the pastor that he was very fearful the anthem would be a failure that morning. In his customary manner the pastor spoke reassuringly: "Don't worry; it will come out all right."

After the service the pastor was lavish in his praise of the anthem. "Why, sir," said the choir director, "you forgot to give us a chance to sing it."

247. IF A QUARTER COULD SPEAK

I am only twenty-five cents.
I cannot buy a box of candy,
Nor a ticket to the movies;
I cannot say it in flowers;
But, believe me,
When I go to church,
I am considered *some money!*

248. PROFESSIONAL MISTAKES

IF A plumber makes a mistake, he gets paid twice for the work; if a doctor makes a mistake, the undertaker covers up for him; if a lawyer makes a mistake, they try the case all over again; if a preacher makes a mistake, nobody knows the difference.

249. OLD FAMILY SERVANT

FATHER was showing Junior the family album and came across the picture of himself and his wife on their wedding day.

Junior inquired: "Was that the day Mom came to work for us?"

250. BORED

THE PASTOR announced a special meeting of his official board to take place at the close of a service. A stranger who had been in the audience took a seat in the committee room.

"Perhaps you misunderstood me," said the pastor; "I asked only the board to remain."

"Well, I'm plenty bored," said the stranger.

251. TOO MANY BOLTS

"WHY are some church folks like a blacksmith?"

"As soon as the benediction is pronounced, they make a bolt for the door."

252. AN APOLOGETIC LAYMAN

THE WIFE of a visiting preacher sat alone in the audience while her husband occupied the pulpit. At the close of the service an usher greeted her, not knowing her identity. "Do come again," he urged, "and don't think we have such poor preaching regularly. That man is here for this service only."

253. GESTURES

THE SCHOOLTEACHER asked a pupil to explain the meaning of gestures.

Said the lad: "When our pastor holds out his hands with palms up, that means the audience is to stand. When he holds out his hands with palms down, that means to be seated. When he takes out his watch and lays it on the pulpit, that doesn't mean anything."

254. DAD HIS IDOL

WHEN asked by the barber what kind of haircut he wanted, a little boy replied: "One with a hole in the middle, just like Dad's."

255. THE BOOK MOST USED

"WOULD you care to read the Bible and pray before retiring?" asked the hostess of a clerical delegate she was entertaining in her home. Upon being assured he would be glad for the privilege, the lady said to her young son, "Bobby, go to the other room and bring that big book that Mother and Daddy read so much." Soon Bobby returned with a Sears, Roebuck catalog.

256. OPPORTUNIST

A TRAVELING salesman from Dallas, Texas, chanced to be in a little village that had no church or minister. A death had occurred in the community, and no minister was available to conduct a funeral service. Knowing the salesman was a Christian man and somewhat versatile, the villagers asked him to substitute for a preacher, which he did. After talking a few moments apropos the occasion, the salesman said: "And now, folks, while I am on my feet, I would like to say a good word for my home town, Dallas, Texas."

257. ONLY CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL

AN AMATEUR golfer swung at a ball, missed it, and hit an anthill. Thousands of ants were killed. He swung again and missed, but killed

more thousands of ants. Again and again he aimed at the ball but killed ants instead. Finally only two ants remained. One said to the other: "If we are going to survive, we had better get on the ball."

258. PROPER SEQUENCE

A RADIO announcer was giving a summary of local news and announcements. He said, in part: "About two hundred preachers are expected at the conference to be held next week in St. John's Church. The weather forecast, dry and windy."

259. SHOCK COULD BE TOO GREAT

PATIENT (coming out of anesthetic): "Why are the blinds drawn, Doctor?"

Doctor: "Well, there's a big fire across the street, and I didn't want you to wake up and think the operation was a failure."

260. LULLABY

It is related that a certain preacher made a recording of his own sermon so as to learn just how it sounded to others. A few minutes after listening to the recording, his wife found him fast asleep.

261. TIGHTWADS

"MY HUSBAND'S purse is made of pigskin," said a lady, "and every time he opens it, it squeals."

When asked why he persisted in singing through his nose, a man admitted he did it save wear and tear on his false teeth.

Then there is the thrifty brother who preferred the "Ninety and Nine" to "Old Hundred." He saved 1 per cent.

262. IN REVERSE

AN OLD fellow was advised by his doctor to go to Florida for his health. After a few weeks there he wrote home: "I feel ten years younger." From Florida he went to Hot Springs. After a few weeks he again wrote home: "I feel ten years younger." So he went on from one health resort to another, and always he would write the same news for the folks back home. Finally, from Southern California the information was wired to his relatives that he had died of infantile paralysis.

263. USEFUL DOG

A VISITING minister apologized for the brevity of his sermon. He explained that just before he left home, his pet dog had chewed up and destroyed most of his sermon notes. At the close of the service a parishioner whispered to the guest preacher: "If that dog of yours ever has any puppies, I wish you would give our pastor one."

264. IT DOES COME IN HANDY

SOME wag has suggested that if the motto "In God We Trust" is ever taken off the silver dollar, it might be well to substitute for it "I Need Thee Every Hour."

265. AN OLD-TIMER

"GRANDPA," asked little Mary, "were you in Noah's ark?"

"No, indeed," replied grandpa. "Why do you ask?"

Little Mary: "Then why didn't you drown?"—*The Christian Evangelist*

266. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

A BARGAIN sale was on at a downtown store, and a wife sent her husband to make a purchase for her. When he got there, a crowd of ladies were milling about the bargain table, grabbing up the bargains. Time and again, as the poor male neared the counter, he was brushed aside and treated rudely. After an hour or so of this he remembered his college football days and poised himself for a center rush, pushing ladies in all directions. A floorwalker promptly accosted him: "See here, why can't you act like a gentleman?"

"I've been acting like a gentleman for an hour," said the battered brother, "but I see I'll never get anywhere until I start acting like a lady."

267. VERSATILITY

THERE are two classes of public speakers of whom we are a bit wary—those who can talk on any subject and those who can talk without a subject.

268. IT'S TOUGH EITHER WAY

IT'S PRETTY hard to live within one's income these days, and it's still harder to live without one's income.

269. WE LEAVE IT TO YOU

A NEWSPAPER editor says that Washington is America's center of gravity. But a discriminating reader thinks this is a typographical error. Instead of "gravity" the editor must have meant "gravy."

270. COMMITTEE AT WORK

A COMMITTEE of five consists of the man who does the work, three others to pat him on the back, and one to bring in a minority report.

271. NOT A PLAGIARIST

A PREACHER was asked why it was that when he began his sermon, he invariably held up two fingers of his right hand; and when he

finished his discourse, he held up two fingers of his left hand. "Those are quotation marks," he confessed.

272. SO RIGHT

A POLITICAL rally was in progress, and a frenzied orator demanded: "Why are we all here?"

Instantly a simple-minded fellow suggested: "Because we are not all there."

273. SECRET OF LONGEVITY

NEWSPAPER reporters were interviewing a man who was celebrating his one-hundredth birthday. "Tell us," they demanded, "what is the secret of your having lived to such a ripe old age?"

"Well," came the reply, "I suppose it is because I have always been an out-of-doors man."

"And how did you come to be an out-of-doors man?" the reporters asked.

"When I was a young fellow," explained the centenarian, "I got married, and I made up my mind that whenever my wife fussed at me, I'd just go outdoors."

274. HALO TOO TIGHT

A MINISTER suffering with repeated headaches consulted a phrenologist. The latter began his routine examination and questioning, not knowing his patient was a minister. Thinking the patient's troubles were the result of some form of dissipation, the doctor asked

many questions pertaining to his personal habits—smoking, drinking, wild parties, gambling losses, and so on. The minister claimed he was entirely free from all bad habits and immoral practices. Finally the doctor gave up, saying, “Well, maybe your halo is too tight.”

275. FOUR-B CLUB

A CERTAIN community is reported to have organized a “Four-B Club.” The four B’s stand for Baldness, Bifocals, Bridgework, and Bulge. It has been suggested the scope could be expanded to include “Bunions.”

276. MUD COLLEGE

A RURAL church had for many years been served by student pastors. One Sunday when a new one arrived, a faithful old deacon was called on for prayer. In part he prayed: “O Lord, bless the young brother the seminary has sent out to practice on us.”

277. MANY LIKE HIM

IT WAS said of Columbus that he didn’t know where he was going when he set sail; he didn’t know where he was when he got there; he didn’t know where he had been after he arrived back home.

278. CURE FOR HOMESICKNESS

THE ILLNESS of a Maryland woman while visiting in California was pronounced to be homesickness by the attending physician. "The only remedy for her," said the doctor, "is for her to breathe the air of her native state." A relative soon solved that problem. He went out on the street and flagged down the first car that had a Maryland license, borrowed the spare tire, took it to the sick room, and released the Maryland air. Believe it or not, the patient became well instantly.

279. FAIR WARNING

UPON entering his pulpit one Sunday a pastor found a neatly wrapped gift package with his name written on it. Upon opening it he discovered a watch case with a note attached. The note said: "Dear Pastor, we are herewith presenting to you a watch case. And if you don't shorten your sermons, we are going to give you the works."

280. ART LOVER

"ARE YOU interested in art?"

"Yes, whenever I visit a strange city, the first thing I do is look up an artery."

281. TO THE POINT

A LAD was assigned the task of writing a very brief essay on the life of Benjamin Franklin. He wrote: "Benjamin Franklin was born

in Boston. He went to Philadelphia and met a woman, married her, then discovered what electricity was."

282. THE MINISTER'S SON

DOCTOR'S SON: "It's nice to be a doctor's son and get medicine for nothing."

Minister's son: "It's nice to be a minister's son and get good for nothing."

283. JUST WHAT THE PASTOR NEEDED

A STUDENT was supplying the pulpit of a pastor who was enjoying a much-needed vacation. In praying for the absent pastor the student prayed: "Bless the pastor, and may he return from his vacation filled with fresh *veal* and new *zigor*."

284. HE ASKED FOR IT

A MINISTER thought it a good idea to tabulate his resources, very much as businessmen take their periodic inventories. With pencil and pad he went over his possessions, appraising the value of his furniture, his clothing, his books, his automobile, his typewriter, and other effects. Finally he came to a pile of sermons. Not desiring to put his own appraisal on these, he called in his wife and said, "You have heard all of these sermons. Just what valuation would you put on them?"

Thoughtfully his helpmeet replied, "I would say about fifteen cents each."

285. WILL POWER

"DOES your wife have much will power?"

"Yes, and she also has a lot of won't power."

286. A GOOD PROVIDER

"IS YOUR husband a good provider?" one woman asked another.

"He is that," came the reply. "He's going to get some new furniture providin' he gets the money; he's going to get the money providin' he gets work; he's going to get work providin' the job just suits him. I never saw such a providin' man in all my days."—*Forward*

287. OTHERWORLDLY

"MOTHER," asked a little girl, "does our minister ever come down from heaven during the week, or is it only on Sundays?" And this reminds us of the Scottish woman who remarked: "Our minister is incomprehensible on Sunday and invisible all week."

288. LACKED VOCABULARY

"CAN I be of any assistance?" asked a sympathetic motorist of a man who was looking unutterable thoughts at his disabled car.

"How is your vocabulary?"

"I'm a minister, sir."

"Drive on."—*Birmingham Age-Herald*

289. LOGICAL

"WHAT do you believe is the reason for your long life, Uncle Aaron?" the reporter asked the centenarian.

"Because I was born a long time back, I guess," said Aaron, reflectively.—*Northwestern Christian Advocate*

290. THE VERDICT OF MANY

A CHIEF justice of the United States, one who went regularly to church and enjoyed a good sermon, was asked what he thought should be the length of a sermon. He said: "A sermon ought to be about twenty minutes long, with a leaning toward mercy."

291. AT LEAST SHE COULD SING

AT THE breakfast table the hostess asked the visiting minister: "How would you like your eggs—soft, medium, or hard?" He expressed a preference, whereupon the lady went to the kitchen door and said to the cook: "Two verses, Mandy." Soon Mandy began singing one of the hymns of her faith. Upon noticing the puzzled look on the minister's face the hostess hastened to explain: "You see, Mandy can't tell time, so when we want the eggs soft, she sings one stanza of a hymn; when we want them medium, she sings two stanzas; and three stanzas if they are to be hard."

292. COMING OR GOING?

A YOUNG mother who knew little of the seamstress' art, but was willing to learn, decided to make a pair of pants for her little boy. Having no pattern, she hit upon the expedient of doubling the goods and laying the boy on it. Then she carefully cut the material to the boy's outline and sewed up the seams. The result was highly pleasing. However, it was difficult to tell whether little Johnny was coming or going.

293. SERVED THE PURPOSE

"FATHER, can you spare five cents for an ice-cream cone?" asked the little Scottish boy.

"Now, now, laddie," said the thrifty father, "I canna spare the five cents, but come here and I'll tell you a story that will make your blood run cold."

294. TALKED TOO MUCH

IT WAS back in the horse and buggy days. A bashful young fellow suddenly blurted out: "Mary, will you marry me?"

"Yes, indeed, I will," came the instant reply. For fifteen minutes old Dobbin plodded along and not a word was spoken. Finally Mary broke the silence: "Why don't you say something, John?"

John replied: "I'm afraid I've said too much already."

295. DAD WAS LEARNING

MARK TWAIN once remarked: "When I was fourteen years old, I thought my father was an old ignoramus. When I became twenty-one, I was surprised at how much the old man had learned in seven years."

296. THREE PASTORATES AT SAME TIME

"SOME PREACHERS," said a bishop, "serve three pastorates at the same time—the one where they have been, the one where they are, and the one where they would like to be."

297. SOME TRUTH IN IT

OBSERVING that his grandmother spent a great deal of time reading the Bible, a little boy remarked to his mother: "It must be that Grandma is cramming for her finals."

298. THE RIGHT CHURCH FOR HIM

FOR THIRTY years a preacher had moved every year. Then a church permitted him to stay two years, three years, five years. At the end of five years he asked the officials why it was that his former churches made him move every year, but this church allowed him to stay five years. Reluctant at first to explain, a deacon finally said: "Well, the truth is we don't want any preacher here, and you are the nearest to none we have ever had."

299. HOW NICE!

THE CHAPLAIN of a penitentiary remarked that there were some nice features of his work. "For one thing, no one ever goes out and slams the door; and another thing, I always leave my hearers under conviction."

300. SALUTATION

THE GOVERNOR of a state was visiting in the penitentiary and addressed an assembly of the inmates. "Fellow citizens," he began, then stopped short because they were not citizens. "Fellow convicts," he said, then realized he was again off the beam. "Well, boys, I don't know what to call you, but I'm mighty glad to see so many here."

301. GET TO THE POINT

THE PASTOR was preaching on the separation of the sheep from the goats. Over and over he kept repeating details of the event until many in the congregation became bored. Finally a young Irishman arose and said: "O.K., Parson, I'll be the goat. What's the joke?"

302. POOR DELIVERY

DAUGHTER: "Dad, why is it that our pastor's salary is only a fraction of the salary of a baseball pitcher?"

Dad: "Perhaps it's because his delivery is only half as good."

303. SYMBOLISM OF COLOR

THE PROSPECTIVE bridal couple were planning the details of their forthcoming wedding ceremony. Said the bride: "My white gown is a symbol of joy." The groom meditated a while, then asked: "Why am I supposed to wear black?"

304. AT LEAST

STAMPING out of a banquet hall an Irishman exclaimed: "Half of the lies they tell about the Irish are not true."

305. PUTTING FOLKS TO WORK

PAT had been digging a well on his little farm, and one day while he was eating his lunch, the well caved in, which meant many, many extra hours of work. Hastily looking about and seeing no one, Pat placed his coat and cap on the edge of the well, then hid in a nearby woods. Assuming he was at the bottom of the well, a score of neighbors soon were frantically engaged in throwing out the dirt. When the job was done, Pat emerged from the woods and thanked his good neighbors for their volunteer services.

Perhaps Pat had heard the saying: "It is better to put ten men to work than to do the work of ten men."

306. THEY DO THEIR PART

DR. F. J. PRETTYMAN while chaplain of the U. S. Senate gave a humorous version of the conversion of Lydia of Thyatira. After her

baptism she asked Paul and Silas what she could do to help the good work along. They suggested that she go and get dinner for them. "And," said Dr. Prettyman, "the women have been preparing meals for preachers ever since."

307. A FITTING PRAYER

A BROTHER noted for his habit of sleeping in church asked his pastor to suggest a little prayer that would be appropriate for him to pray upon taking his seat. "In your case," said the pastor, "I believe I would pray, 'Now I lay me down to sleep.'"

308. HAD A PRIOR CLAIM

A NEW PASTOR in a certain village called on an unchurched family and gave them a cordial invitation to attend his services. For this he was taken to task by the pastor of another church, who said, "Those are our sinners; you let them alone."

309. A FAIR-WEATHER LOVER

AN ARDENT young lover wrote his sweetheart a letter in which he said, in part: "My love for you is so great I would swim the deepest river for you; I would climb the highest mountain; I would dash through fire; I would fight wild beasts. (P. S. If it doesn't rain, I'll be over to see you Sunday night.)"

310. CHURCH MEMBERS CLASSIFIED

"WORKERS; Jerkers; Shirkers."

"Jawbone Christians; Wishbone Christians; Backbone Christians."

One pastor remarked that all of his members were willing. Some were willing to work, and the rest were willing to let them.

311. WHAT THE DEACON SAID

THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL teacher was trying to explain the saying of grace at the table and felt that a deacon's son could tell the class in his own way, so she asked him: "Tommy, what does your father usually say when you are all at the table, just before you begin to eat?"

Tommy: "He says, 'Go slow with the butter, kids; it's awful expensive now.'"

312. THE PERFECT SQUELCH

SADLY the pastor said to his official board, "Brethren, I feel we may as well drop the midweek prayer meeting." This caused a furore among the brethren, and they indignantly denied him his way in the matter.

"But, my brethren," said the minister, "what you don't seem to know is that we haven't had a prayer meeting for the past six months."

313. PATHETIC SCENE

TEMPERANCE SPEAKER: "Picture for yourself the plight of the drunkard's wife. It is midnight. Her wayward husband lingers at the tavern while she with one foot rocks the cradle of her sleeping babe, and with the other wipes tears from her eyes."

314. PARKING PROBLEMS

When Noah sailed the waters blue,
He had his troubles same as you;
For forty days he drove the ark
Before he found a place to park.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

315. KNEW WHAT HE WAS ABOUT

AN AGED widower eloped with a teen-ager of the flapper type, much to the chagrin of his family.

"Dad," said one of the family, "if you just had to get married again, why didn't you marry a woman of your own age?"

"For the simple reason," replied the elderly groom, "that I'd rather smell cheap perfume than liniment."

316. EXAMS CAN BE THAT WAY

"YOUNG MAN," said the professor to the college student who had just handed in his examination paper, "what does this B. A. I. K. mean you have written on the margin?"

"That means 'Boy, am I confused!'" said the student.

"But you should have used a c instead of a k in spelling 'confused,'" said the professor.

"Well, that just shows how confused I am," admitted the student.

317. DEARLY BELOVED

A MAIDEN lady remarked that the congregation of her church was so small that every time the bachelor pastor said "dearly beloved," it seemed like a proposal.

318. EVOLUTION

TWO MEN, one named Wood and the other Stone, were walking together along a street when a pretty girl chanced to pass them. It is reported that Wood turned to Stone, and Stone turned to Wood, and they both turned to rubber.

319. UNASHAMED

As a train emerged from the darkness of a tunnel the conductor announced the next town. "Sawyer! Sawyer!" he cried. A honeymooning couple flared at him, "We don't care if you did; we're married."

320. WHY IT WAS LATE

"WHY is this train late?" a fussy lady asked the conductor.

"Well, lady," explained the conductor, "the trouble is that the train in front is behind and this train was behind before besides."

321. REVISED VERSION

THE PASTOR preached an eloquent sermon on the subject "The Handwriting on the Wall," using as his text Dan. 5:25, "*Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin.*" Upon returning home from the service the parents of a little girl asked her what the minister's sermon was about. She said it was "Meany, meany, tickle the parson."

322. WOULDN'T TAKE LONG

HECKLER: "That's right; tell them all you know; it won't take long."

Speaker: "I'll tell them all we *both* know. It won't take any longer."

323. THAT EVENS IT

THE BRIDE was notoriously homely, and the preacher said after the ceremony, "It is the custom for the minister to kiss the bride, but we'll just omit it this time."

The groom, disappointed that his bride was not accorded the usual honors, said to the preacher: "I believe it is the custom for the groom to give the preacher a fee, but we'll just omit it this time."

324. DIPLOMACY

THE NEW minister was becoming acquainted with his flock. A middle-aged widow asked him, coyly, to guess her age.

"Now, let me see," said the minister; "I don't know whether to make you ten years younger on account of your looks or ten years older on account of your intelligence."

325. FASTING AND FEASTING

TEACHER: "Robert, who were the Pharisees?"

Robby: "The Pharisees were people who fasted in public and in secret devoured widows' houses."—*Boston Transcript*

326. CAUSE FOR TEARS

A MINISTER was preaching his farewell sermon, and all during the service an elderly saint was in tears. At the door the pastor said to her: "Don't cry, sister; the conference will send you a better preacher."

"That's what they said last time and didn't do it," she snapped.

327. WEARY IN WELL-DOING

MOST of us have had the experience of preparing so long and so thoroughly for an event that when the time arrived, we found ourselves too exhausted to properly enjoy it. We are not unlike the dim-witted fellow who figured that the broader the stream, the longer the run should be if he was to jump it. Desiring to jump a rather broad stream he went back a mile or more, then ran with all his

might toward the creek. Puffing and blowing, he finally arrived at the stream—and fell in.

328. EVOLUTIONISTS

SON: "Dad, what are evolutionists?"

DAD: "Evolutionists, my son, are people who ape Darwin."

329. HOT SPOT

"NOW THAT you've seen my new son," said the proud father, "which side of the house do you think he resembles?"

"Well," said the embarrassed bachelor friend, "I came in the front door and really didn't notice either side of the house."

330. COMPLIMENTARY

A FARMER'S wife shipped a crate of eggs to a wholesale house in a city, but before doing so she wrote on one of the eggs: "I got 3 cents for this egg. What did you pay for it?"—to which she signed her name and address.

Months later she received a letter written on the highly embellished stationery of an actor.

"My dear Madam," he wrote, "while playing the part of Hamlet recently, I received your egg for nothing."—*Tit-Bits*

331. OFF-AND-ON CHRISTIANITY

IN A testimony meeting a brother was telling of his Christian experience. "I was converted," said he, "forty years ago, and I've been a Christian off and on ever since."

332. NO COACHING

A COLLEGE class was being quizzed on Bible subjects.

"With what weapon did Samson slay the Philistines?" the instructor asked.

No one ventured to reply, so the professor decided to coach them a little. "What is this?" he asked, as he pointed to his jaw.

"The jawbone of an ass!" triumphantly exclaimed a student.

333. AND SHE MIGHT CHANGE HER MIND TOO

"BUT, LADY," a marriage-license clerk explained to a movie-actress applicant, "the law compels me to record all previous marriages before I issue a license."

"Great guns," exclaimed her prospective husband, "and I've got a taxi waiting!"—*Saturday Evening Post*

334. STRIKE THREE, OUT!

A VILLAGE blacksmith had been drinking "mountain dew" and was entertaining the town loafers with his arrogant boasts. "The next man that comes along this road," he shouted, "no matter who he is, I'm going to lick."

The next man to come along happened to be an itinerant preacher, on horseback. True to his word the smithy went out into the road, stopped the preacher's horse, and demanded that the preacher dismount and be whipped.

"Well, if I must, I must," said the preacher, and he dismounted. The blacksmith then struck him on the side of his face. The preacher said, "Now, my brother, the good Book says I should let you strike me on the other cheek," and he turned his face to receive the blow and did.

"Now," said the preacher to the drunken man, "the good Book doesn't tell me what to do next, so I'll just use my own judgment." Whereupon he took off his coat, drew back his arm, and with a well-directed blow sent the smith sprawling to the ground.

335. COME AND SEE

ONE DAY the telephone rang in the office of the Episcopal church which President Roosevelt attended in Washington, and an eager voice inquired, "Do you expect the President in church tomorrow?"

"That," replied the rector, "I cannot promise. But we expect God to be there, and we fancy that will be incentive for a reasonably large attendance."—*Coronet*

336. HE PLAYED SAFE

A CERTAIN minister was never known to have a pulpit guest. He did his own preaching year after year. "You see," he confided in a friend, "if a guest preacher preached better than I do, my flock would never be satisfied with me again. And if he didn't preach any better, he wouldn't be worth listening to anyway."

337. SOMETHING TO BOAST OF

IN A Hollywood schoolyard a group of children began telling of their sisters and brothers. One said he had two, another three, another four, and so on.

A forlorn little fellow piped up: "Well, I don't have any sisters and brothers, but I have five mommies by my first poppy and four poppies by my present mommy."

338. WHAT A RELIEF!

LECTURER: "I calculate that the end of the world will come in 217,000,000 years."

Hearer (in great agitation): "How many did you say?"

Lecturer: "217,000,000."

Hearer (sitting down with great relief): "You frightened me so; I thought you said 117,000,000."

339. OVERDID IT

ON A hot summer day a group of farmers awaited the arrival of the itinerant preacher and asked him to pray for rain, which he did. Before the service was over, a storm broke loose such as they had never witnessed before. Fields and crops were washed out and bridges washed away.

Later one of the farmers said to another: "That's the way it is with our preacher; everything he does, he overdoes."

340. MORE TAXES

"I WISH NOW," said the lecturer, "to tax your memory."
Someone in the audience let out a wail: "Has it come to that?"

341. PEP NEEDED

A LAY preacher took for his text one Sunday "Ye are the salt of the earth." Quite a few of his hearers went to sleep. At the close of the service an old-timer said to the brother, "The next time you come here to preach, bring the pepperbox as well as the saltcellar."

342. CAUSE OF GRAY HAIR

"SON," said a preacher father, "every time you misbehave in church, you give me another gray hair."

"Well, dad," said the boy, "then you must have been a blister, from the looks of Grandpop's hair."

343. OH, NO!

THE PASTOR of a small congregation was about to take a month's vacation. On the Sabbath before his departure he made the following announcement from the pulpit: "The preacher for next Sunday will be the Rev. Mr. Judson, and the ones for the other Sundays you will find hanging on the bulletin board in the vestibule."

344. WHAT'S THE RUSH?

THE VILLAGE minister was working in his yard when the earth caved in and he found himself at the bottom of an abandoned well. In response to his loud calls for help a neighbor came to his rescue, but was rather leisurely about it.

"Hurry, hurry!" frantically called the minister.

"What's the rush, Parson?" asked the slow-moving rescuer. "This is only Thursday, and we won't be needing you till Sunday."

345. HAD TO BEGIN AT THE TOP

WITH diploma under his arm the graduate walked into the employment office of a contracting firm and asked for a job. "I'm a college graduate," he said, "but I want to begin at the bottom and work my way up."

"Sorry, young man," said the manager, "but we're well-diggers, and we start at the top and go down."

346. IN MEMORIAM

A WOMAN was showing a friend some of her precious keepsakes. With weeping eyes and a sad voice she said: "And this is a lock of my dear husband's hair."

"But," said the visitor, "your husband is still alive."

"Yes," affirmed the weeping woman, "but his hair is gone."

347. FLAMING YOUTH

SEVERAL oldsters were enjoying their indoor sport of panning the young people. Said one: "The rising generation retires at the hour the retiring generation rises."

348. SELF-PRESERVATION

A BASHFUL curate found the young ladies in the parish too helpful. At last it became so embarrassing that he left.

Not long afterward he met the curate who had succeeded him. "Well," he asked, "how do you get on with the ladies?"

"Oh, very well indeed," said the curate; "there is safety in numbers, you know."

"Maybe so," was the rejoinder, "but I only found it in exodus."—*Dallas News*

349. TWO OF A KIND

It is related that Albert Einstein, world-famed mathematician, once found himself in a restaurant without his glasses and unable to read the menu. He held the card at arms' length, then close to his eyes, then scrutinized it sideways, but to no avail. Handing the card to the waiter, he said, "Here, you read it for me."

The waiter shook his head sympathetically and replied, "I'm sorry, but I'm ignorant too, boss."

350. ALL IS FORGIVEN

AN ELDERLY minister, a widower with a grown family, was visiting in a distant city and while there wrote to his children that he had "married a widow who had six children."

When he arrived home, one of his daughters, her eyes red from weeping, asked: "Where's the widow you married, Father?"

"Why, with her husband, I suppose," he said. "I thought you understood that I just performed the ceremony for her."

351. FIFTY-FIFTY

TWO BROTHERS operated a gristmill in the country. One of them went to the revival meeting at the cross-roads church and was converted. The next day he made an effort to evangelize his brother. The brother finally said: "Well, it's this way, Bill. I would like to join up with the church, but now that you've joined up, somebody in the firm has to weigh in the wheat."

352. SLOW GETTING TO THE POINT

"AND HOW did you like my sermon this morning?" a pastor asked his wife at the dinner table.

"Well," replied the wife, "it reminded me of the days when you were courting me. You were so slow getting to the point."

353. AT LEAST ONE TRUTHFUL FISHERMAN

HE HAD been fishing, but with bad luck. On his way home he entered a seafood store and said to the clerk: "Just stand over there and throw me five of your largest trout."

"Throw 'em? What for?" asked the amazed clerk.

"Well, I want to tell the family I caught them. I'm a deacon in the church, and I don't want to tell a lie."

354. TOO THIN

A MINISTER met one of his backsliding parishioners on the street and chided him for absenteeism from church. "What's the matter?" asked the minister. "Don't I give you the 'sincere milk of the Word'?"

"Yes, Pastor," admitted the wayward one, "but I would rather have it condensed."

355. KNEW WHO TO CALL

A MAN called at the address where a donkey had been advertised for sale. The man's wife answered the knock. The caller said, "I have come to inquire about the donkey."

Whereupon the wife went to the back door and called to her husband, "Father, you're wanted."

356. SOUNDED OMINOUS

SHE: "I won't even consider marrying you. You are the most stupid, idiotic, asinine creature I've ever met. You are repulsive,

abhorrent, and miserable. I wouldn't marry you if you were the last man on earth. I hate you. You are despicable."

He: "Do I understand that you are rejecting my proposal?"—*Boston Beanpot*

357. HE ASKED FOR IT

THE PASTOR asked one of his venerable pillar saints for an honest appraisal of his sermon.

"Well, Pastor," said the outspoken brother, "I liked the beginning and I liked the ending, but there was too much middle."—*Christian Register*

358. HISTORY OF SLAVERY

"How AND when was slavery introduced into America?" This question was asked a class in a history examination. One boy wrote as follows: "No women had come over to the early Virginia colony. The planters wanted help with the work. In 1619 the London Company sent over a shipload of girls. The planters gladly married them, and slavery was introduced into America."

359. GAVE BRIDE AWAY

"WHO GAVE the bride away?" asked a lady of her daughter, who had just returned from a church wedding.

"Her little brother," replied the daughter. "The brat stood up in the middle of the ceremony and yelled, 'Hurrah, Blanche, you've got him at last.'"

360. REVENGE IS SWEET

CURATE: "I am glad to see you come so regularly to our evening services, Mrs. Brown."

Mrs. Brown: "Yes, you see, my husband hates me going about of an evening, so I do it just to spite him."

361. EXAGGERATION

A PASTOR was asked to explain the meaning of the word "hyperbole."

"Let me explain it this way," he replied. "If I were to remark that the whole of my congregation was asleep last Sunday, that would be a hyperbole. But if I said that half of my congregation was asleep, that would be the truth."

362. COMPROMISE

A YOUNG couple were strolling in the moonlight. After a long silence the young man said: "Mabel, I hate to tell you, but there is something I think you ought to know before we get married. I don't think I'm doing right not to tell you."

The bride-to-be turned pale and asked him to tell what it was. "I am a somnambulist," the youth confessed.

"Oh, that's all right, Tom," said Mabel, "I'm a Congregationalist, and we'll go to your church one Sunday and mine the next."

363. ALL WELCOME

DINER in restaurant: "Do you serve crabs here?"

Waiter: "Sure, we serve anyone. Sit down."

364. CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

ELOPING BRIDE: "Here's a telegram from my father."

Bridegroom (eagerly): "What does the old chap say?"

Eloping bride: "He says, 'Don't come home and all will be forgiven.'"

365. DIM PROSPECT

LITTLE WILLIE: "Mom, is Pop going to heaven when he dies?"

Mother: "Why, Willie, whatever put such an absurd idea into your head?"—*Georgia Tech. Yellow-Jacket*

366. SHE FORGOT TO REMEMBER

PASTOR'S WIFE: "Darling, what was your sermon about last Sunday? I want to tell my Sunday-school class that it was one they should always remember."—*Life*

367. A BUSINESS PROPOSITION

MURIEL: "Yes, my engagement with Bert Brown is broken off. He's too economical. He's a contractor, you know, and he sent out

circulars to all the clergymen in the town asking for their lowest estimates for performing the ceremony."—*London Mail*

368. TRY IT ANYWAY

A MILLIONAIRE lay dying. He had lived a life indifferent to the claims of the church, but at the last called in a minister to whom he weakly muttered: "If I leave a hundred thousand dollars or so to the church, will that help get me into heaven?"

The minister cautiously answered: "I wouldn't like to be positive, but it's well worth trying."

369. THE AUTOMOTIVE AGE

A REAL ESTATE salesman tried to sell a house to a pair of newly-weds. Said the wife: "Why buy a home? I was born in a hospital, reared in a kindergarten, boarding school, and college, was courted in an automobile and married in a church; I get my meals at a restaurant, live in a furnished apartment, spend my mornings playing golf and my afternoons at bridge; in the evenings we go to a dance or the movies. If I get sick, I'll go to a hospital; and when I die, I shall be buried from an undertaker's. All we need is a garage."—*Watchman-Examiner*

370. PUTS 'EM TO SLEEP

IT WAS the beginning of a new school year, and the students of a theological seminary were having Open House to greet the newcomers. One of the upper classmen, having had an operation during

the summer, asked a new student: "Did you ever take chloroform?"

"No," replied the new student, who was eager to learn all he could, "but I should like to. Who teaches it, and I wonder if I can crowd it into my schedule?"

371. SOUNDS REASONABLE

"TEACHER," asked a precocious youngster in Sunday school, "did the people of Bible times go swimming a lot?"

"That I do not know," admitted the teacher, "but why do you ask?"

"Well," came the response, "it seems that a lot of people died of divers diseases."

372. FAST ACTION

AN ITINERANT preacher in a southern mountain made use of a mule to get about his parish.

"Does that mule ever kick you?" asked a mountaineer.

"No, suh," replied the pastor, "but sometimes he kicks where I recently was."

373. OPENED HIS MOUTH AND GOT HIS FOOT IN IT

A PASTOR and his guest preacher were in the "Amen Corner" awaiting the hour to start the service.

"Who's that ugly woman?" the guest preacher asked in a whisper, as he indicated the place a certain woman was seated.

"Why, that's my wife," said the pastor.

"No, I mean the one next to her," said the guest, hoping to extricate himself from an embarrassing predicament.

"The one next to my wife is my daughter," admitted the pastor.

374. PREACHING VS. PRACTICING

MINISTER'S DAUGHTER to boy friend: "Dad's sermon tonight is on the text 'Love one another.' Don't you want to go, Jack?"

Jack: "Well, I'd much rather stay here at your home and practice what your father is preaching."—*Pitt Panther*

375. LOUDER! LOUDER!

WHILE visiting in the home of a friend, a lady heard the loud voice of a man through the wall separating the homes. "Who is that I hear speaking?" the visitor asked.

"Why, that is my neighbor, who is talking to himself," replied the hostess.

"But why does he talk so loudly if he's talking to himself?"

"Because," explained the hostess, "he is quite deaf and can't hear himself talk unless he speaks loudly."

376. ONE MORE HIT

A PASTOR called a congregational meeting to decide whether to repair the church building or tear it down and build a new one. Most of the brethren wanted the new church, but the decision seemed to rest upon the attitude and generosity of a wealthy deacon. When called upon to express himself, the brother arose and said: "It is true

the old church is badly in need of repairs, but I think we should do that instead of building a new one. I'll subscribe fifty dollars toward repairing the old church."

Being a portly man, as he took his seat, he jarred the building and a piece of loose plaster fell on his head. Jumping to his feet, he said: "This building is in worse shape than I thought. I'll make it five hundred for repairs."

As he took his seat again, another member was heard to mutter a prayer: "Oh, Lord, hit him again!"

377. COMING OR GOING?

AN AGITATED young man ran frantically down the ferry slip, leaped across a strip of water, and landed with a crash on the deck of the boat. "Well," he gasped, as he picked himself up, "I made it!"

"What's your hurry?" asked a deck hand. "This boat's coming in."
—*University of Iowa Unique*

378. A SYNTHETIC ANIMAL

GRENVILLE KLEISER says that a clergyman should have:

The innocence of a lamb.

The wisdom of an owl.

The cheerfulness of a cricket.

The friendliness of a squirrel.

The complacency of a camel.

The diligence of a beaver.

The fleetness of a deer.

The agility of a panther.

The patience of an ox.

The endurance of an elephant.

The tenacity of a bulldog.
The courage of a lion.

379. FIFTY-SEVEN VARIETIES

SOME sermons are like:

Accordions—easily lengthened or shortened.

Freight trains—disconnect anywhere, couple on a caboose, and they are complete.

Sausage—you can cut them off anywhere. They are “boloney” any way.

Mouse tails—straight to the point.

Cats' tails—fur to the end.

Rabbits' tails—nothing to them.

Dogs' tails—bound to occur (a cur).

Some preachers can't make their sermons luminous, so they make them voluminous.

380. DAFFY DEFINITIONS

Antique: An object that has made a round trip to the attic.—*Red-book*

Apologetics: Proving what you've never doubted with arguments you don't understand.

Baby: Something that gets you down in the daytime and up at night.

Bachelor: A man who is crazy to get married—and knows it.

Bacteria: The back door of a cafeteria.

Bore: One who talks about himself when you want to talk about yourself.

Cleanliness: Something that in childhood is next to impossible.

College-bred: A four-year loaf made of Father's dough.

College education: Something to help you express your negative ignorance in positive language.

Education: The process by which what is in the professor's notebook gets into your notebook without passing through the head of either.

Egotist: A guy who is always "me deep" in conversation.

Elocution: The way some people are put to death. (Schoolboy's definition)

Etc.: An abbreviation to make people believe you know more than you do.

Expert: An ex-spurt.

Expert: An ordinary man a long way from home.

Fanatic: One who can't change his opinion and won't change the subject.

Flattery: Soft soap, which is 90 per cent lye.

Good wife: One who laughs at her husband's jokes as though she had never heard them before.

Good wife: One who helps her husband with the housework.

Gossip: Something that goes in one ear, out the other, and over the back fence.

Highbrow: A person educated beyond his intelligence.

Hobby: Hard work that you would be ashamed to do for a living.
—Gilbert Norwood in "This Week Magazine"

Home: The place where we are treated best and grumble most.

Jitterbug: Not an insect, but a human being trying to act like one.

Joke: The shortest distance between two points of view.

Lawyer: One who gets your property away from your enemy for you and keeps it himself.

Man: The only animal that can be skinned more than once.—
Jimmy Durante

Orator: A sophisticated rhetorician inebriated with the exuberance of his own verbosity.

Oratory: An avalanche of words moving over the landscape in search of an idea.

Paratrooper: A soldier who climbs down trees he never climbed up.

Pedestrian: A man who has two cars, a wife, and a daughter.

Preacher: A man who talks in other people's sleep.

Prime minister: A clergyman at his best.

Psychology: Something everybody knows expressed in words nobody can understand.

Public Speaking: The art of diluting a two-minute idea with a two-hour vocabulary.

Research: Getting things out of many old books never read and putting them into a new book nobody will read.

Social tact: Making people feel at home when you wish they were.

Specialist: One who knows more and more about less and less.

Toastmaster: A man who eats a meal he doesn't enjoy so he can tell some stories he can't remember to people who have already heard them.

Youth: The first fifty years of your life—the first twenty of anyone else's life.

381. QUICK QUIPS

"A MAN is never too busy to talk about how busy he is."

"When the woodpecker goes out to get a square meal, he uses his head."

"It is easier to float a rumor than to sink one."

"The man who halted on third base to congratulate himself failed to make a home run."

"Rip van Winkle is the only man who ever became famous while he was asleep."

"The man who is set in his ways doesn't hatch new ideas."

"Hard work is the yeast that raises the dough."

"Some minds are like concrete—thoroughly mixed and permanently set."

"If you itch for success, keep on scratching."

"Man may not have come from the monkey, but many are going to the dogs."

"People who have no pep are not worth their salt."

"Some people only look up when they are flat on their backs."

"When an optimist gets the worst of it, he makes the best of it."

"It is unfortunate to have more dollars than sense."

"A loose tongue often gets its owner into a tight place."

"Some people throw their tongues into high gear before they get their brains going."

"Some who think they are ahead of the times are merely off the track."

"When a driver drinks like a fish, his car is likely to turn turtle."

"The man who toots his own horn soon has everybody dodging when he approaches."

"Every family tree has some sap in it."

"If absence makes the heart grow fonder, how some people must love the church!"

"A Bible in the hand is worth two on the shelf."

"It is generally in summer that religion is snowed under."

"One trouble with this age is we substitute horsepower for horse sense."

"Most folks know *how* to say nothing, but few know *when*."

"It's all right to hold up your chin, but don't turn up your nose."

"Modern parents divide their time between worrying over how their children are going to turn out and when they will turn in."
—*Hawley R. Everhart in "The Saturday Evening Post"*

"Before I got married, I had six theories about bringing up children. Now I have six children—and no theories."—*Lord Rochester*

"If you want a thing well done, don't do it yourself unless you know how."—*Empire Tool Company "Cutting Remarks"*

"One trouble with the disagreeable things people say about us is that a lot of them are true."

"The man who remembers what he was taught at his mother's knee may have been bent over it at the time."

"There are just two kinds of speakers: those who have something to say, and those who have to say something."

"The reason advice often goes in one ear and out the other is that there is nothing between the ears to stop it."

"People who look back these days may not turn into a pillar of salt, but more likely into a telephone pole."

"It is estimated that human beings use twenty-five pounds of soap per capita per year, and that doesn't include the soft soap."

"Man is an irrational creature who is always looking for home atmosphere at a hotel, and hotel service at home."

"The difference between a person chewing gum in church and a cow chewing her cud is that the cow usually looks thoughtful."

"The church is not an art gallery for the exhibition of eminent saints, but a hospital for the curing of sick sinners."

"The chances are about ten to one that when a man slaps you on the back, he wants you to cough up something."

"If you want to live to see ninety, don't look for it on your speedometer."—*Lookout*

"It is estimated that there are over one million American women who are overweight—round figures, of course."—*Lookout*

382. OR WAS IT?

A MOTORIST crashed a telephone pole, broke it off, and soon was enmeshed in a maze of wires. As he came to, he was heard to mutter: "Thank heaven, it's a harp."

383. PROFESSIONAL COURTESY

EMINENT SPECIALIST: "So you went to a general practitioner. What fool advice did he give you?"

Patient: "He told me to see a specialist."—*Judge*

384. GOAL IN SIGHT

THE PROUD young father had just returned from the doctor's office where he had paid something on his account. "Just to think, dear," he said to his beaming wife, "only three more payments and the baby is ours."

385. THE PAY-OFF

"I AM sorry to tell you," said the doctor, "that there is no doubt you are suffering with smallpox."

The patient turned on his pillow and looked up at his wife.

"Julia, if any of my creditors call, tell them that at last I have something to give them."—*Rochester Credit Association Bulletin*

386. WEDDED BLISS

THE YOUNG couple recently married were in front of the cheery fireplace and just sat and sat and sat. Finally he turned to her and said: "Honey, you are going to say something beautiful and soulful. I can see it in your lovely eyes."

"Yes, I am thinking of asking you something," she responded.

"Yes, yes! anything! What is it, honey?" he asked.

"Won't you begin wearing a rubber band around your head at night, so as to train your big ears not to stick out?"—*Virginia Methodist Advocate*

387. CO-OPERATION

JONES suddenly became ill and was rushed to the hospital. His boss was among the first to visit him.

"Now, Henry," pleaded the boss, "don't worry about a thing. Everyone at the office is going to pitch in and do your work—as soon as we can find out what you have been doing."—*New York Times*

388. CONFESSED HIS ERRORS

THE BISHOP was examining a catechetical class and singled out a frightened boy for questioning.

"My boy," said the genial bishop, "who made this great and glorious earth of ours, and set the moon, the sun, and the stars in the wonderful firmament?"

"I did," blubbered the lad, "but I won't do it again."—*Western Christian Advocate*

389. POLITE THOUGH TEMPTED

AUNT: "And were you a good little girl at church this morning, Sallie?"

Sallie: "Oh, yes, Aunty! A nice man offered me a big plate full of money, but I said, 'No, thank you, sir.'"—*The American Legion Weekly*

390. PRAYER TECHNIQUE

LITTLE Jimmie was saying his bedtime prayers a week or two before Christmas. He enumerated the many things he would like to have for Christmas and with a startlingly loud voice. "Don't pray so loudly," chided his mother; "the Lord isn't deaf."

"Maybe he isn't," admitted Jimmie, "but Grandma is."

391. MORE APPROPRIATE

TWO NEIGHBORS were having an over-the-garden-fence chat. "Yes," said one, "John and I were married by a justice of the peace."

"Really," came the catty reply; "judging by the sounds we have heard through the partition, we thought you had been married by the secretary of war."—*Pickup*

392. CARRY ON

"How's THIS?" asked the lawyer. "You've named six bankers in your will to be your pallbearers. Wouldn't you prefer some close friends with whom you are on better terms?"

"No," said the client, "those fellows have carried me so long they might as well finish the job."—*Bankers' Monthly*

393. LOOKED GOOD IN PRINT

AN OLD fellow on his deathbed in making his will murmured to his lawyer: "And to each of my employees who have been with me twenty years or more I bequeath the sum of ten thousand dollars."

"Wonderful! What generosity!" said the lawyer.

"No, it isn't that," said the sick man. "You see, none of them have been with me over a year; but it will look good in the papers, won't it?"
—*Liverpool Post*

394. BE KIND TO THE KIDDIES

THE PRACTICE of a young doctor who had opened an office in a rural district was not flourishing. One day his office attendant appeared at the door of his consultation room to report that some small boys were picking green apples from a tree at the back of the lot. "Shall I drive them away?" she asked.

The young doctor walked over to the window, considered a moment, and answered, "No!"—*The Lookout*

395. FELT THE CALL

PROFESSOR: "Recent researches seem to prove that clergymen and soldiers appeal most strongly to women."

Student: "That settles it! I'm going to be an army chaplain."—*London Opinion*

396. FAIR WEATHER

HE (poet lover): "My fair one, you reign supreme in my heart. Without you all would be dark and dreary. When the clouds gather, and the snow and hail beat upon me, then I think of you. Immediately the warm southern winds come—the storms break—and through the dying showers I see your love shining bright and clear. My rainbow!"

She (practical girl): "Hey, is this a proposal or a weather report?"
—*Provident Between Ourselves*

397. DEAF, BUT NOT SO DUMB

MRS. A.: "I notice your husband is quite deaf. Has he ever thought of getting a hearing aid?"

Mrs. B.: "Yes, but he says he will wait a few years until the children get through taking piano lessons."—*Sparks of Laughter*

398. A KICK BACK

JONES heard a pretty good conundrum at the office and thought he would try it on his wife.

"Do you know why I am like a mule?" he asked her when he returned home.

"No," she replied promptly. "I know you are, but I don't know why you are."—*Federal Reserve 3-C Book*

399. GOD'S COUNTRY

"Is THIS a healthy town?" asked a Chicago man of a native of a certain community in the West.

"It sure is," replied the native. "When I came here, I hadn't the strength to utter a word; I had scarcely a hair on my head; I couldn't walk across the room, even with assistance; I had to be lifted in and out of bed."

"That's wonderful!" exclaimed the innocent from Chicago. "How long have you been here?"

"I was born here."—*Farm Life*

400. UNANSWERED PRAYER

"DADDY," asked the minister's little daughter, "why do you bow your head when you go into the pulpit?"

"I'm talking with God," said the minister, "and I ask him to give me a good sermon to preach."

"But, Daddy," persisted the little girl, "why doesn't he ever do it?"
—HENRY SMITH LEIPER in *Coronet*

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